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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk April 10, 2016

Mid edition No 707

POLICE

Fergus Wilson fails in bid to run as PCC

Technicality prevents him from
being a candidate

EDUCATION

Life after collapse of K College

From financial meltdown to being
back in the black

RETAIL

Get set for Record Store Day

Limited edition treats set to lead
to big crowds next weekend

SPORT

Will he bowl up success?

Kent Cricket's CEO Jamie Clifford as
the new season gets under way today

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We don't need Trump style politics for the PCC

IF THERE is one thing that the Donald Trump circus in the US has demonstrated to us all, it is that if there is a candidate who creates an initial wave of support for being rather daft, it stops being a joke when it threatens to carry them into office.

Because if you are genuinely interested in the way in which we are governed – and by that I mean weigh up not just your personal situation but those of our broad communities – then simply supporting someone who plays on our fears rather than blazes a trail of positivity for what lies ahead is to be regarded with caution.

The biggest surges in support in recent years have been from those promising a new approach, and a different angle on politics.

Barack Obama did it in the US. The most eloquent of speakers he verbalised a different approach to the world's



Editor **Chris Britcher**

greatest super power. Ultimately, however, he discovered the structure of the decision-making process saw his efforts flounder on the senate floor more often than that succeed. One assumes Trump would find the same.

All of which brings us to the police and crime commissioner election. Some may sigh a breath of relief this weekend that some big characters failed to appear on the final list of runners and riders.

Certainly other candidates will be among that number.

Because, in truth, this is not a role for the outspoken, extreme, candidate. It is for the level-headed who appreciates operational strategy isn't part of the role; of one who will represent every part of this county's vibrant community and their concerns. In short, it shouldn't be the person who shouts the loudest, but thinks the hardest.

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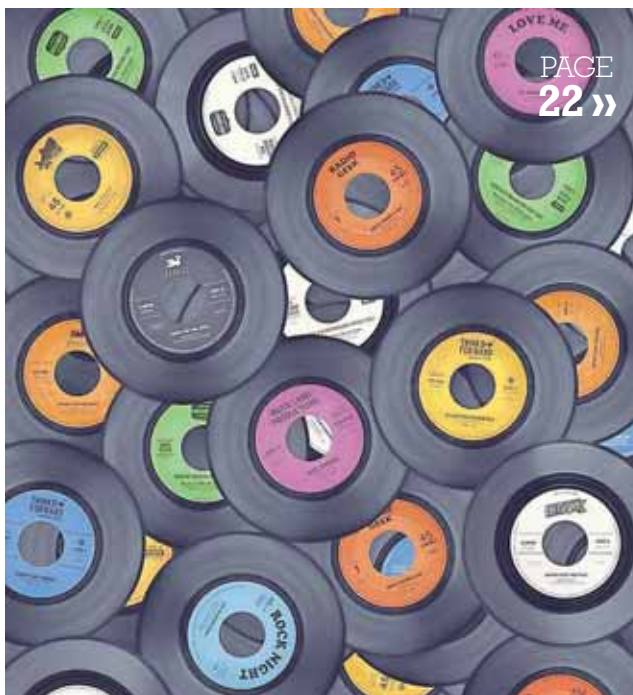
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Expect big crowds next weekend for one of the key events for music lovers



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Murdered wife told cops nine times of killer threat

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT Police has been told it 'could have done better' after a report into the murder of a Ramsgate woman by her estranged husband revealed she raised concerns about his behaviour on nine separate occasions in the months leading up to her death.

Anne-Marie Birch, 47, was strangled in a field near her home in November 2013 before the victim's husband, Lee Birch, 55, admitted her manslaughter and then changed his plea to guilty of her murder during his trial. He was jailed for life in April 2014.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) found several of Mrs Birch's calls to police could have been better handled by the force, with problems including incorrect logging of calls and a lack of awareness among some call centre staff about non-molestation orders (NMOs).

The report found some officers who spoke with her in person prior to the point when she obtained an NMO may have failed to identify or investigate potential offences committed by Birch

including harassment and making threats to kill.

The IPCC found that shortly after the NMO had been taken out, officers told the victim they could not take action against her husband until the order appeared on their police systems.

This was despite the fact officers had been shown a threatening note Birch had written on the order itself, which he then posted through her door.

IPCC commissioner Mary Cunneen said: "Ultimately it is Lee Birch who takes full responsibility for the campaign of harassment against Anne-Marie which culminated in her tragic death.

"Our investigation found that Kent Police could have performed better when Anne-Marie called them for help and we have made 12 recommendations to the force highlighting important areas where its practices can be improved."

A Kent Police spokesperson said: "The IPCC report... makes for disappointing reading.

"Clearly there were steps we could have taken to improve the service Anne-Marie received when she had concerns about her estranged husband's behaviour.

"As soon as it became clear there were areas needing improvement, those improvements were made and they have been in place for a significant period of time."



VICTIM: Anne-Marie Birch was strangled near her home in Ramsgate by her estranged husband

'More cash needed' say councils despite £1.5m fund to tackle potholes

THE government announced this week that it will provide almost £1.5m to help tackle potholes in Kent - but KCC say there is still a hole in funding to fill.

Some 27,792 potholes will reportedly be fixed using the £1,473,000 investment from the Department for Transport, which softens the blow of the £2m cuts to the highways maintenance budget announced by KCC earlier this year.

However, it now appears upwards of £500,000 will still need to be found to help deal with one of Kent's most pressing issues.

Matthew Balfour, KCC cabinet member for environment and transport, said: "Whilst we welcome the Department for Transport announcement that KCC will receive £1.4m to further improve the standard of our roads, it comes on the back of a cut of £2m to our grant allocation.

"We have a deteriorating asset that needs investment over the

coming years.

"A recent survey suggests there is a backlog of £12bn across the country.

"In Kent we have over a £200m backlog of highway resurfacing - set to grow to over £350m in 10 years at current levels of investment."

Medway, meanwhile, will receive £135,000 to fix 2,547 potholes.

Labour group spokesperson for regeneration, communities and culture, Andy Stamp felt the funding was inadequate.

He said: "We know the damage that potholes can do and we know how urgent it is that proper action is actually taken to address this issue.

"Despite their announcement this government is not prepared to take that action - instead they are giving councils less money to repair potholes.

"This isn't action - this is merely spin. And spin won't repair the thousands of potholes across Medway."

Smash after car drives 'wrong way' down the M20

THERE were major headaches on the M20 on Thursday after a crash caused after a car apparently drove into oncoming traffic.

As KoS went to press, police were still waiting to question one driver following the incident which left the road close in both directions between Ashford and Hythe - junctions 10 and 11.

The crash occurred on the

London-bound carriageway when a black Seat Leon collided with another vehicle. The driver of the Seat was injured, and a passenger in the other car seriously hurt.

Police have been appealing for witnesses who saw the incident or the vehicles involved in the moments leading up to the crash.

The road was shut for several hours as police made the area safe,

'Human remains' found in hunt for Greenhithe PC

INVESTIGATIONS are ongoing this weekend into the disappearance of a Greenhithe policeman.

Met Police officers found 'human remains' on Thursday during their hunt for PC Gordon Semple, who was reported missing by his partner on April 1.

Commander Alison Newcomb said: "If there is anyone who can help us with our investigation I

would ask you to get in touch with us and tell us what you know.

"My thoughts are with Gordon's family and friends at this time of personal tragedy.

"This is a very sad day for Gordon's colleagues. There are many officers who have served London alongside Gordon during his 30 year career who will acutely feel his loss."



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X Factor auditions to take place at Dreamland

FANCY your chances of hitting the big time and launching that long overdue pop career?

Then open auditions for the next series of the X Factor in Margate could be for you.

The talent show will be staging the turn-up and sing chance at Dreamland on April 28 from 10am to 5pm.

Hopefuls over the age of 16 can give it a try - with the

best being picked to appear before the judging panel when the next round of auditions take place over the summer.

Simon Cowell said: "We're excited to start auditions again this year for The X Factor. If you think you have got what it takes, then why don't you apply? And remember, one audition could change your life."



LAUNCH: Band on Tuesday night

Exhibition rocks the life of the Stones

DARTFORD rockers the Rolling Stones turned out for the launch of the band's first-ever major exhibition at Chelsea's Saatchi Gallery on Tuesday night.

Described as "the most comprehensive insight" into the group, Exhibitionism is an 'interactive' Stones experience boasting costumes, instruments, film, fashion, rare audio and even a reproduction of the first flat they shared in Chelsea after leaving Kent in pursuit of global glory.

The musical heritage which took the group from a blues band in the early 1960s to the influential pop culture giants they remain forms the heart of the exhibition.

The band's personal artefacts, including costumes and original instruments, are on display and there is even a reproduction of the first flat they shared in Chelsea.

Exhibitionism features art and design, film, video, fashion, performance and rare sound archives from the group who were formed in London more than five decades ago.

Three years in the making, it has had the full co-operation of Sir Mick Jagger, 72, Keith Richards, 72, Charlie Watts, 74, and Ronnie Wood, 68, all of whom attended the glitzy opening night.

Exhibitionism runs to September 4.

Probe into train derailed after hitting cows says lessons must be learned

By Tom Pyman

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THE derailment of a train carrying 70 people between Canterbury and Ashford last year could have been avoided if a poorly conditioned fence had been maintained, a government investigation has revealed.

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) this week released a report into the incident which took place on July 26, when a Southeastern train derailed after hitting and killing eight cows that had made it onto the track.

There had been a report of a cow on the railway an hour earlier, but a subsequent examination by the driver of the next passing train did not find anything.

The train involved in the accident was travelling at 69mph at the point of impact, with 67 passengers and three members of staff on board. No-one was injured.

Because the train's radio had ceased to work during the accident,



CRASH: Train derailed in July

the driver ran for about three-quarters of a mile towards an oncoming train, which had already been stopped by the signaller, and used its radio to report the accident.

RAIB has now announced that

the accident occurred because the fence had not been maintained to restrain the cows, and because the railway's response to the earlier report of a cow on the railway side of the fence was insufficient to prevent the accident.

In addition, the absence of an obstacle deflector on the leading unit of the train made the derailment more likely.

As a result of this accident, RAIB has recommended addressing the fence inspection process, clarification of railway rules in response to reports of large animals within the boundary fence, the fitting of obstacle deflectors to rolling stock, and the reliability of the train radio equipment.

In a joint statement from the train operators and track administrators, it said: "Network Rail and Southeastern co-operated fully with the RAIB on this report and we have noted its conclusions and recommendations."

"We will continue to work together to run a safe and reliable railway for our passengers."

Residents rescued by ladder in flats blaze

POLICE say they are treating a blaze in a block of flats in Canterbury in the early hours of Friday morning as arson.

Residents had to flee to safety down a 44ft ladder put alongside the building by fire crews.

Emergency teams were summoned just before 5am to reports of a fire in the communal area of the second floor of a three-storey block of flats on Sussex Avenue.

Residents were advised to stay in their flats with doors closed while firefighters wearing breathing apparatus tackled the flames. A second team of firefighters positioned a 44ft ladder and led eight residents to safety from the flats.

Remarkably, everyone was accounted for and there were no reports of any injuries.

A British Red Cross vehicle tended to those residents caught up in the drama.

A major police probe is now under way into what caused the fire but early indications suggest it was started deliberately.

Cathedral farewell for tragic waterfall victim

A MEMORIAL service for the former Royal Navy sailor who died while climbing waterfalls in Vietnam will take place at Canterbury Cathedral later this month.

Christian Sloan, 25, from Deal, and two other women, died in February after taking a tour with an unauthorised guide at the Datanla waterfalls in Lam Dong province - a popular tourist spot.

It remains unclear exactly how the three holiday-makers died, but it has been claimed that, by not being with an official guide, they did not use proper safety equipment.

Now, his family have confirmed the cathedral will host a special service on Monday, April 18.

A fundraising page has already raised more than £1,000 with the family preferring cash donations to flowers. Mr Sloan's sister, Katie-Leigh Cottrell said: "The cathedral doors will be open from 2pm for the service to begin at 2.30pm, everyone is welcome to attend."

"This will be followed by a cremation at Barham to be attended by family and close friends only."

Tribute paid to tragic mother and daughter

THE family of the mother found dead at a house in Gillingham last month have paid tribute to "a beautiful, loving, talented and caring person".

The bodies of Lillian Elizabeth Oluk, 36, and her two-year-old daughter Lynne Elizabeth Mutumba were found at a property in Trafalgar Street on March 14.

The cause of their deaths remains unexplained and further tests are still being carried out, although neither death is currently being treated as suspicious.

The tribute said: "We are shocked and overcome with grief over the untimely death of our daughter and sister Lillian Oluk and her daughter."

"Lillian was a beautiful, loving, talented and caring person and a truly wonderful mother."

"She adored her daughter and worked really hard to give her the best life she could. She was a private person and had a small group of loyal friends."

"She and her daughter were taken from us just when it seemed everything was going right for them and the two had their whole life ahead of them to look forward to. We will dearly miss the two of them."

Trains between coastal towns set to resume 'in December'

By Chris Britcher

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RAIL users will have to wait until December for the Dover to Folkestone line to be open again, Network Rail has confirmed.

It comes after the line had to be closed on Christmas Eve after the sea wall started to crumble.

The £44.5m project to rebuild the line has already begun and Network Rail engineers say they are targeting December to reopen the railway to trains.

Work to protect the existing structure and cliffs has been under way since the start of the year and preliminary construction on the 235m-long viaduct started last week.

MP for Dover and Deal Charlie Elphicke said: "This is a very big project and it will cost more than £40m. The works will take a long time. I completely understand how difficult this has been for rail travellers. Yet once the works are complete, we will have a more resilient railway line. I will do all I can to see the project keeps to the timetable and we get our rail services back on track as soon as we can."

Network Rail's route managing director Alasdair Coates said: "Passengers have been incredibly patient while their railway has been closed and I want to assure them that everyone at Network Rail has been working



FUTURE: Artist's impression of how structure will look

incredibly hard on a plan to reopen the railway as quickly as possible.

"We hope to have trains running again in December. As with all projects of this scale, and this kind of exposed location, we will face challenges with the weather and the ground we are working on, but I am confident this is the right plan and one that will give us a strong railway, years into the future."

The new viaduct will be 235 metres long, supported on 134 concrete columns sunk into the beach. It will be designed to last 120

years and will be protected by rock armour.

Network Rail's Steve Kilby, who is leading the project, said: "The railway at this location was originally built on a timber viaduct and our modern, concrete viaduct will follow the same principles – although it will be hidden behind a wall of rock sea defences. In addition to rebuilding the railway, we are also defending almost 750m of the sea wall with more than 90,000 tonnes of rock – the same weight as two modern cross-Channel ferries."

Family mourn after kayaker's body found

THE body of a 46-year-old kayaker was found on the riverbank on Wednesday after a major search and rescue effort was launched when his craft was found floating on the Medway.

Family of the victim reported him missing around 11pm on Tuesday – around the time river authorities spotted the empty kayak.

His body was found on the riverbank near the Esplanade in Rochester.

Beano artist in comic art masterclass

A COMIC artist for the Beano is set to provide a masterclass for students at North Kent College later this week.

Kevin F Sutherland is best known for his work on the Bash Street Kids and Dennis the Menace.

He will meet students on Wednesday, April 13, at the Dartford campus.

County in The Tunnel

SKY Atlantic's critically acclaimed The Tunnel returns for a second series this week - with much of the series once again shot in and around Kent.

The second series debuts on Monday night at 8pm and includes scenes filmed in Canterbury and Sandwich. It features police from Kent and France working on a joint case following a plane crash into the English Channel.



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Campaign to crack down on motorists using their phone

RESEARCH by county council chiefs found 65 per cent of us fear the biggest risk to them on the roads is motorists using a mobile phone at the wheel.

The research comes in the same month Kent County Council is launching an awareness campaign to remind drivers of the dangers of using mobile phones whilst driving.

Vicky Watkins, road safety team leader at KCC, said, "Using a mobile phone whilst driving impairs reaction time, reduces concentration levels, leads to poorer judgment of speed and distance and reduces your field of vision.

"Drivers using mobile phones make the roads less safe for us all. It's a fallacy to believe we can concentrate on two things at once. The reality is one activity will



dominate the other."

Inspector Martin Stevens said: "Using a phone at the wheel is just as socially unacceptable as drink driving and both offences cost lives. Life lost on the road is a life wasted

and a family devastated.

"So next time you are behind the wheel and get a mention, a favourite, a like or a direct message, ask yourself if you are literally dying to read it?"

Supermarket closes again as sale of site gets started

THE campaign to re-open a supermarket close to Tunbridge Wells railway station had been one of the most vocal in the town's recent history.

Council chiefs and even the local MP joined in the fight to see the Morrisons store in Vale Road back in business after it had stood empty for six years.

But after the campaign proved successful in April 2012 and the store began trading again, last weekend it closed its doors for the second, and final, time.

After just under four years of trading, the supermarket giant said it had been unable to turn its fortunes around and shut up shop for good last Sunday.

It had been one of the town's two main eye-sores – alongside the derelict cinema which stood

at the top of Mount Pleasant Road. That building was finally demolished last year.

Now, though, the Morrisons site is once again boarded up as the process begins to off-load the site.

What so infuriated locals before was when Morrisons shut in 2006, the retail chain refused to sell the site. Now, though, it has admitted surrender and will sell the site on.

Some 113 staff were told of the imminent closure in January, before a 45-day consultation began. Closure was confirmed at the end of February. Around 30 per cent of staff have been relocated.

Top of the shopping list for most local residents will be upmarket supermarket chain Waitrose.

Pub's £200k overhaul

AN HISTORIC seaside pub in St Margaret's Bay, near Dover, has reopened following a £200,000 refurbishment.

Famed as the nearest pub to France, Shepherd Neame's The Coastguard is run by couple Tom and Karensa Miller, who also run the Zetland Arms in Kingsdown.

Restaurant's top award

TAJ Cuisine in Chatham has achieved one of the Cobra Good Curry Guide's most prestigious awards, for 'culinary excellence'.

The guide's awards described the restaurant as "one of the best curry venues in the region". The award was presented during a VIP lunch.

'Observance' sparks fire

FIRE crews had to tackle a blaze on Tuesday believed to have been sparked when tea lights used for a 'religious observance' spread to nearby materials.

The alarm was raised in Valley Drive, Gravesend, at around 11.15pm. No-one was injured.

Images of Kent tickets

THE latest winner of tickets to the Leeds Castle Classical Concert this summer courtesy of our Images of Kent page has been drawn.

Brian van der veen from Dover was chosen at random from the four images printed during March. Find out more on p51.

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 9AM - 11AM
 WED 11TH MAY

Top Three Stories



1. Drunken attacker jailed

Man jailed after headbutting barmaid

2. Wrong way driver

Police appeal to public after M20 crash

3. Crossing disruption

Abnormal loads to cause crossing delays

The Essential Guide:



...to Operation Stack

Everything you need to know about chaos on the M20 last summer



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Gillingham's League One promotion push was halted last weekend as they drew 0-0

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Top Three Blogs



1. Drinks pack a punch?

Does alcohol cause violent behaviour?

2. Starve-out IS?

Don't give IS propaganda any attention

3. Straight outta uni

A young man's first step into the real world

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Was it right to spend £9m on EU leaflet?

- 1 Yes, we need this document - 1%
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- 3 Waste of tax payers' money - 87%
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Wilson vows to appeal as bid KO'd on technicality

Controversial landlord's hopes of being police and crime commissioner hang in shreds but he insists he'll fight on...

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

CONTROVERSIAL property magnate Fergus Wilson says he will appeal a decision blocking him for standing for Kent's police and crime commissioner.

His nomination papers were rejected by the electoral returning officer Nadeem Aziz – Dover council's chief executive – in a statement on Thursday night, which indicated they were invalid.

It ruled out the entry saying "the papers were not delivered as required by law and were not subscribed as required by law".

Mr Wilson has been a controversial figure ever since announcing his intention to stand for the role which holds the police to account, given his background which includes a criminal conviction for having punched an estate agent, which he has subsequently appealed.

It had been widely thought his conviction would rule him out of standing in the elections – something Mr Wilson always seemed to shrug off.

He and his wife, Judith, shot to fame for investing in buy-to-let properties just as that market took off. They ended up owning nearly 1,000 properties – primarily in Ashford and Maidstone.

However, they decided to sell it all off and cash in to the tune of around £250 million.

Mr Wilson says his conviction was not the cause of the problem but a failure in filing the paperwork for his nomination.

The rules state that the poll card numbers and signatures of 100 registered electors must be submitted by hand.

However, Mr Wilson claims

he was not given the opportunity to do this – receiving an email at 12.08pm on Tuesday inviting him to submit the paperwork at 11.30am that morning.

Mr Wilson told KoS: "They overstepped the mark already by trying to persuade me not to stand back in March.

"But they couldn't stop me running because of the punching incident, so they had to find another reason.

"They made an appointment knowing we couldn't make it so we believe the election is now void.

"The whole timetable is crackers, and we're appealing to the High Court for an emergency injunction to stop ballot papers from being printed.

"Hopefully it will all happen quickly because it would be a complete waste of time and money for them to print material for six candidates and then have to do it all over again for seven.

"If the judge rules against the injunction, however, that will be that."

However, Dover District Council, which is organising the election, dismissed his claims over the timings.

It told KoS: "Nominations could be delivered from March 21 to April 7, 2016, on any weekday, excluding bank holidays, between 10am and 4pm."

Meanwhile, English Democrat candidate Steve Uncles has successfully appealed to have a court case in which he is facing charges of electoral fraud postponed until after the May poll.

"I think that's the way it should be," Mr Wilson added.

"You're innocent until proven guilty – the burden of proof is on the accuser, not the accused."

The role of police and crime commissioner was introduced for the first time in 2012, and current incumbent

Ann Barnes has endured something of a rollercoaster ride during her four years in office. She swept to victory in all areas of Kent on an independent ticket. But after a sometimes controversial tenure in office, she confirmed last month that she would not stand for re-election.

Ian Pointon, chairman of the Kent Police Federation, which represents rank and file officers, admitted he was initially sceptical about the role, but said his views had changed, and praised the impact it had on the public.

He told KoS: "I was nervous and concerned about placing governance and the ability to hire and fire the chief constable into the hands of one person.

"But what the role has done is raise the profile of the police in Kent.

"Police authorities were previously quite unwieldy, there were about 17 people on there and it created bureaucracy, and that has been reduced since the role came into effect.

"People know who their commissioner is now, whereas they probably didn't have a clue who was on the police authority and didn't know what they did.

"It's not perfect but very few things in life are.

"What we all want to see is more bobbies on the beat because it's reassuring to see a uniformed officer, but what we are seeing is a change in the crime profile.

"Online fraud is growing exponentially and you are more likely to see a thief coming into your home through the phone line or on the internet rather than a window or door.

"Our teams that deal with that may appear invisible but we argue they're just as much on the frontline as an officer in a uniform."

BATTLE: Fergus Wilson is selling his £250m property portfolio, but will now not be fighting to replace Ann Barnes, right, as our police and crime commissioner in May's election



THE SIX CANDIDATES STANDING FOR ELECTION AS POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER:

■ Henry Bolton (Ukip)

■ David Naghi (Lib Dem)

■ Tristan Osborne (Labour)

■ Gurvinder Sandher (Independent)

■ Matthew Scott (Conservative)

■ Steve Uncles (English Dems)

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From the ruins of failed K College comes new breed of success story

When it revealed it was running a debt of close to £20m, the super college formed following a merger was in chaos. The divorce was messy... but today its component parts are once more fighting fit...

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

SIX years ago, the campuses of many of the county's major college bloomed with a golden new dawn.

K College's birth in 2010 was supposed to be the birth of a further education colossus; merging the well-established West Kent and South Kent colleges into one new super institution.

From Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells in the west, through Ashford to Folkestone and Dover in the east, it was designed to be a one-stop stepping stone between school and employment.

Amid much fanfare, West Kent College appeared to ride to the aid of the then struggling South Kent College, and embraced it. Like a newly wed couple, they changed their name to simply K College and the old separate branding was replaced with the distinctive gold K at every campus.

Yet, remarkably, within two years the divorce papers were filed. Somehow, spending had got out of control. Nigh on £20m in debt, the realisation it wasn't working hit all concerned hard.

The separation would be messy too. The marriage collapsed, the component parts were effectively put on the market and auctioned by the government; and taken over by the start of the 2014 academic year.

In between, a rescue team was parachuted in tasked with reversing the financial position and getting the college back in the black, ahead of being handed over to an external institution.

East Kent College – no stranger to name changes having ditched its former monicker of Thanet College some years before – came in and gathered up the Folkestone and Dover campuses to add to its existing site in Broadstairs.

Out went the old names and they became outposts of the EKC empire.

The Brook Street site in Tonbridge, which over recent years had seen an almost total multi-million pound rebuild, along with the Ashford site in Jemmett Road, were swallowed up by the ever-expanding Hadlow Group.

The West Kent College name returned, while Ashford College emerged like a phoenix from the flames.

Now, remarkably, just 18 months after a very large question mark hung over their very future, all four sites are flourishing.

Lynne Beaumont was a councillor in Shepway when the college collapsed and was one of the vocal campaigners driven by the fear the youngsters of Folkestone would be lost to other Kent towns and the supply of workers to local firms diminish as a result.

Speaking to KoS this week, she



COLLAPSE: The golden logo of K College outside its Tonbridge site has been replaced with financial stability

said the turnaround was remarkable. "It was absolutely on its knees," she explained. "But the the principal at East Kent College had spent many years in Folkestone and knew what needed to be done. The energy and enthusiasm the college has gone about improving has been incredible. As a result, I'm not surprised that there has been this remarkable turnaround in just 18 months.

"Now we don't need to lose our youngsters to places like Canterbury; if there are exciting courses here then they will stay."

The college principal in question is Graham Razey. He's ploughed £3.5m into the Folkestone campus and close to £3m in Dover.

He explained to KoS: "When K College failed around 25 to 30 per cent of the college transferred into the East Kent College family

"However it hasn't just been about the capital investments we've made in the campuses. We've worked hard to change the culture at both campuses, improving morale and focusing on ensuring students get the high quality training they deserve.

"We have also worked to embed

ourselves into the local communities, striking up strong partnerships with major employers, such as the Port of Dover, and working with both local councils to ensure our courses offer the skills which are required in the local economies."

Recent visits by education watchdog Ofsted have given it the seal of financial good health.

Hadlow's Midas touch appears to have continued with the campuses it took over.

After the Skills Funding Agency

declared K College's financial health as 'inadequate', unsurprisingly, in its final days, a recent report declared those of West Kent College and Ashford College as 'outstanding'.

Hadlow Group were no fools. After taking over the two sites they kept them as separate businesses under their overall umbrella – protecting their own security as they took over the bulk of the debt too.

Having completely reversed the fortunes of the once struggling Hadlow College, it has also recently opened the Hadlow Rural Community School – a secondary which has a very rural flavour, thus making it almost without parallel in the county.

Group principal is Paul Hannan said: "This validates the sound decisions we have made with our capital programme.

"We pledged to secure the future of K College and not only have we done that, we've ensured it has flourished under its rebranding and achieved outstanding financial health.

"This financial stability is the bedrock on which we're able to expand and maintain our excellent educational provision."

Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, director of finance and resources, added: "We were confident in our innovative educational and financial strategy to transform K College. It is the management of global risk and the group's unique fiscal model we have adopted since 2004, that serves to enable us to drive strong quality with a robust financial base."

All of which is made more impressive given the back drop of changes to funding of colleges which has seen many face fresh budget challenges.

K College's financial implosion threatened key vocational and academic education for a generation.

Today, its former parts are alive and well and once again providing an essential role in the county's educational mix.

Grammar school plan shot down by council But confirmation of new secondaries in Canterbury and Thanet too

KENT County Council appears to have shot down any hopes of a Canterbury grammar school opening an annexe in Herne Bay.

Barton Court Grammar School has been reported to be pursuing a chance to build on the site of the former Herne Bay Golf Club to allow it to serve the seaside towns of Whitstable and Herne Bay, within the Canterbury district.

Previous plans to move the school wholesale to the site two years ago were abandoned after a huge backlash from parents.

But this week a spokesman for Kent County Council confirmed

that while it was planning to get two new free schools set up – one in Canterbury and one in Thanet – "none of this possible future development requires additional grammar school provision in the area".

The extension of grammars has become a political red-hot potato in recent months after the government finally gave the green light for an annexe in Sevenoaks of the Weald of Kent grammar in Tonbridge.

A Kent County Council spokesperson said: "Kent's commissioning plan for education 2016-2020

was approved by the KCC cabinet on March 21 and does not include any plans for satellite grammar provision to serve the Canterbury district.

"At a recent meeting between KCC, the Department for Education and the Education Funding Agency, with potential free school sponsors, it was agreed to apply for a new secondary free school in Canterbury and in Thanet, where new provision is required from 2019-20 onwards. None of this possible future development requires additional grammar school provision in the area."



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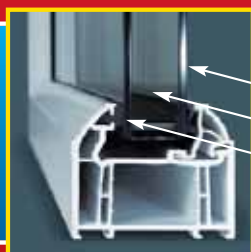
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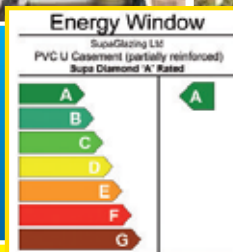
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'Horrific' abuse at deaf college cause of shock closure

When it closed its doors in December, blaming financial problems, parents were up in arms. But this week a report has been published which reveals the real reasons Westgate College for the Deaf had to close and it is chilling reading...

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AN MP has called reports of abuse at a college for the deaf as "simply horrifying".

The allegations were made in a report by the Care Quality Commission on the Westgate College for the Deaf and the Road Project in Margate.

The report explains in graphic detail the abuse that led to the closure of the facility last November.

The report has been released after the John Townsend Trust, which administered the facility, had its appeal 'struck-out' by a tribunal.

The report found that the college's residents were subjected to sustained physical and emotional abuse over a number of years leading to multiple police investigations.

Sources at the college have also pointed to instances in which residents of the college witnessed inappropriate sexual activities.

The Care Quality Commission concluded that the practices at the college amounted to 'shocking examples of institutionalised failings and abuse'.

The CQC chief inspector of adult social care, Andrea Sutcliffe said: "What we saw at 'Westgate College for Deaf People and the Road Project' - and what was reported to us - were shocking examples of institutionalised failings and abuse. Residents were harmed by the very people who should have been caring for them, and the leadership within the John Townsend Trust did not take sufficient steps to prevent this, or to tackle a culture where people in vulnerable circumstances were not protected."

"While I can understand how distressing the closure was for the former residents and their families, I hope they can now see that their safety and wellbeing were what drove our actions at all times."

"The John Townsend Trust was given every opportunity and support to improve but failed to do so and it seriously let down the people in its care."

"We eventually concluded that the care at the college was so poor that it was essential to use our enforcement powers to the full so that people could be protected from harm given that its leadership was incapable of making the rapid and substantial changes required. I am sorry for the impact this had on the lives of the young people there and their families."

"They, and CQC, should never have been put into this position."

The report details serious accounts of abuse, among them:

■ An allegation that a resident had had a hot cup of tea placed on their arm and was then goaded by a staff member: CQC understands this was the subject of a police investigation.

■ There was a separate allegation a staff member had grabbed a resident around the neck and pushed their head down; which led to a police investigation and staff suspension.

■ On October 2, 2014, the CQC carried out an unannounced inspection in response to these safeguarding alerts. During this inspection, inspectors found evidence of abuse, including services being withdrawn from people to punish them for exhibiting challenging behaviours. It was reported that, when a resident ripped their T-shirt, a member of staff hit the resident with this, while reprimanding them for their behaviour and telling them that their activities would be withdrawn.

■ Four staff members were suspended and subsequently dismissed after admitting to poor practice and abuse. The police investigated and presented a case to the Crown Prosecution Service, which concluded there was not enough evidence to bring charges against the staff. This case was also further reviewed after a complaint was made to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

■ Vulnerable residents were not being supervised in a swimming pool (which was open to the public) and no lifeguard was on duty.

■ The key to a fire exit had been lost, meaning that it could not be used.

■ A cupboard which contained bleach and other hazardous chemicals had not been secured, making it accessible to residents.

■ Serious medication errors had occurred, and had not been reported to CQC in-line with requirements of the registration regulations, including a person being given too much insulin and a person given a double dose of sedative.

■ There was no evidence that incidents were being recorded appropriately and being learnt from.

■ Staff did not have an understanding of fundamental safeguarding procedures and when concerns should be escalated to the local authority.

Remaining trust facilities are currently due to be transferred to another charity at the beginning of May.

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HOW PROBE CHANGES REACTION

IN 1792, the Royal School for Deaf Children in Margate opened its doors for the very first time.

On Friday, December 11 2015, it shut them for what seems set to be the last.

In its wake, it put hundreds of staff out of work and left parents devastated as their children – so reliant on the school for its specialised teaching methods – faced up to having to find alternative provision elsewhere.

There was outrage from parents as the initial reasons for closure were put down to financial concerns.

Even then, quiet claims of abuse seemed to be overlooked or dismissed by many – devastated by the loss of such a facility.

The opinions of many will now surely have to shift.

The school comprised a number of different parts – offering both residential and day care; becoming a home for many.

The facilities on offer included specialist therapy rooms, a sensory garden and a fully-equipped medical centre.

In addition, it operated Westgate College, providing services for youngsters – including those with disabilities – aged 19-22.

Operated by the registered charity the John Townsend Trust, it employed some 525 staff, and also ran Monkshill Farm education site in Faversham, closed and sold off earlier last year; a number of charity shops, training and community living services.

But a string of significant stumbling blocks, which included the allegations of abuse, saw it crumble and the trust dragged into administration.



SHUT: South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay, right, says the extent of the problems at the college have left him stunned and that he hopes all of those who attended can now find suitable alternative, and safer, care.

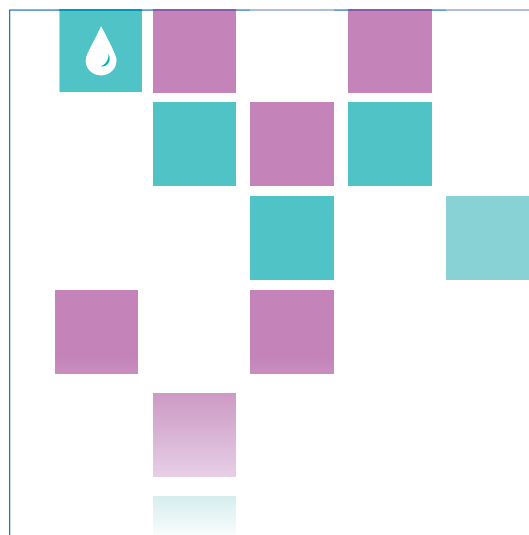
South Thanet Conservative MP Craig Mackinlay said: “These allegations are simply horrifying. Residents were abused by the people they trusted the most; it was wrong and without excuse.

“These actions have hurt not only residents but other innocent hard-working staff at the trust. The government has beefed-up the CQC to ensure such malpractice is not ignored.

“Other instances of abuse may have occurred

which have never been discussed. I would invite anybody affected by this appalling abuse to contact Detective Inspector John Cooper of Kent Police on 01843 222289 with any information. I will be continuing to work with Sir Roger Gale

[MP for Thanet North] to ensure the remaining residents are transferred to appropriate care without delay.”



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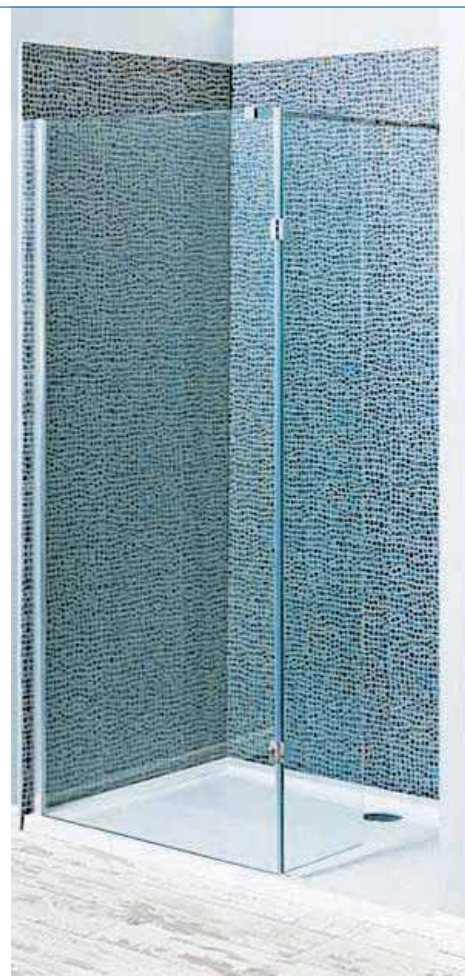
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Legal impact of a possible Brexit

In the latest in a series of balanced, independent articles penned for KoS examining some of the key issues affecting how you may vote in the EU referendum, academic **David Radlett** from the Kent Law School at the University of Kent takes a look at the legal implications should we vote to leave the EU...

ON JUNE 23 we will vote on the following question: Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?

The choices offered will be 'remain a member of the European Union' and 'leave the European Union'.

The result of the referendum will not bind the Westminster Parliament (nothing binds the Westminster Parliament) but it is likely to be extremely difficult for a 'leave' vote to be ignored; although the smart money would be on a round of negotiations followed by a second referendum.

The governing treaty of the European Union encourages prevarication. Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union confirms that a member state can decide to withdraw from the union "in accordance with its own constitutional requirements" and sets out a procedure to be followed from the union's side if such a decision is made. Article 50 (2) keeps union law in place until the date agreed by Brussels.



COMPLEX: David Radlett

So, from the UK's perspective, a government committed to following the will of the people expressed in a 'leave' vote should repeal the European Communities Act 1972 straight away. This would have the effect of removing union law from the national legal systems, including Article 50 itself.

A carefully-drafted interim savings provision will be needed keeping sub-

stantive union law in force purely as national law until such time as decisions are taken at Westminster as to which provisions to keep and which to ditch.

Such action will enable the UK government to negotiate with Brussels from a position of strength rather than supplication as envisaged by Article 50.

At this point it becomes difficult to predict what will be done from the perspective of the law because a 'leave' vote actioned in this way will shift an enormous amount of power back into the hands of the British people, and out of the grasp of the unelected, unrepresentative and unaccountable judges in Luxembourg.

As to whether the outcome of this process will be good or bad, who can say? As Herbert Agar wrote: "This is the burden of freedom: that it is all our fault or our credit."

It is easier to predict what will happen in the event of a 'remain' vote. Any 'opt-out' secured by the Cameron government will be set aside by the

judges in Luxembourg as soon as they deem it necessary to do so. This is exactly what happened with the Blair government's 'opt-out' from the Charter of Fundamental Freedoms.

It was only a couple of years ago that Mr Justice Mostyn expressed surprise that what he thought was the UK's opt-out from the Charter of Fundamental Freedoms had in fact been held to be of no effect by the Luxembourg court.

The process of enlargement will continue and with it, the decline of the United Kingdom's voting power in the council of ministers (down from 17 per cent in 1973 to 8 per cent today) and its share of seats in the European Parliament from 20 per cent to 9.5 per cent over the same period.

This might be thought to matter as, since 1996, the UK has opposed 55 measures in the EU's council of ministers, but lost on each occasion. George Washington once ob-

served astutely: "Influence is no government. Let us have one by which our lives, liberties and properties will be secured."

Further progress will be made on the union's association agreement with the Ukraine, which, with its commitment of the Ukraine and the union to promote a gradual convergence toward the union's common security and defence policy and European Defence Agency policies, poses the biggest threat to peace in Europe since the end of the Second World War.

David Radlett is a lecturer within Kent Law School at the University of Kent. His interests include the shift in power from the elected and notionally representative and accountable to the unelected and obviously unrepresentative and unaccountable. Previous articles in this series can be found in our e-editions at www.kentnews.co.uk.



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Will insurance changes mean a flood of relief for vulnerable sites?

Home insurance policies for us all will be upped in order to create a fund to help pay for problems caused by flooding. But will it make a significant difference? **Tom Pyman** asks those most affected...

THOUSANDS of homeowners received a boost this week as a world-first insurance scheme was given the green light.

Flood Re (short for Flood Reinsurance Scheme) came into force on Monday to help those living in areas at greatest risk of flooding.

And for Kent that includes traditional flooding 'hotspots' such as between Maidstone and Tonbridge – Yalding been a prime example – and villages to the east of the county, many near Canterbury, such as Littlebourne.

Coastal areas such as those near Faversham and Whitstable have also proved vulnerable in the past.

Up to now, householders in the risk zones have been paying large additional premiums to ensure their homes and possessions are protected – assuming they could find a company to take on the risk.

And when disaster strikes, insurance firms are then left having to find tens of millions of pounds to foot repair bills.

Flood Re aims to ease the problems for all involved.

Flood Re requires all companies who provide home insurance in the UK to put around £180m into a central pot.

Insurers can then place their policies with the Flood Re scheme which means that claims for flood damage to homes are paid for out of the Flood Re pot.

The benefit to homeowners is insurance companies will be able to offer flood insurance at a more affordable price and the excess on claims should be significantly reduced following the introduction of a £250 limit. Previously, excess levels were set so high it was costing thousands to capitalise on a policy.

The cost will ultimately fall on ordinary policy-holders, who are likely to have to pay an extra £10.50 on their premiums on average.

However, houses built since 2009 will not be covered by the scheme to discourage developers from building on land at risk of flooding.

The concept of the scheme has been widely praised although

some remain sceptical.

Many, however, say it is distracting from the more pressing demand for enhanced flood defences.

Yalding has long suffered from the effects of flooding. Geraldine Brown, chair of the parish council, believes the focus should instead be on improving flood defences.

She told KoS: "In theory it's certainly a good thing, although it's only in place for 25 years, when they are expecting people to become fully flood-resistant.

"It sounds like a really good idea, but we need test cases to see how it's really going to work and I think there'll be a few teething problems.

"I'm also pleased that Band H properties are now included – just because you might have cash in the bank doesn't mean you're any less vulnerable to the impact of flooding.

"It's a relief that we haven't got to pay huge excess or premiums but the point is we have got to stop it happening altogether and we need more community flood defences.

"That's why we've introduced schemes in Yalding and Tonbridge but it's about getting the investment.

"Kent County Council offered to match funds but then they've had their own funding cut so it's difficult for them, too."

Ms Brown's concerns were echoed by the pressure group, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), who claimed planning authorities are being put under too much pressure to build on sites that just aren't suitable.

Kent director, Hilary Newport, said: "In principle it's a nice idea because it's fairer and eases the burden, but our line will always be that where development happens, there needs to be flood mitigation procedures in place.

"But it's not just about expensive man-made structures, we need trees planted in appropriate places to absorb more of the water, for example. We need to manage the flash nature of climate change.

"There will be properties built since 2009



IMPACT: Kent has been hit hard in the past by flooding – especially places like Yalding and Littlebourne

that will be vulnerable and it's so important for planning authorities to turn down developments that aren't right.

"We're seeing speculative applications made and it's becoming harder for them to say no because they're under such pressure."

Protection has been promised in areas of the county in recent months, with 50 Aylesford homes benefitting from a scheme launched just before Christmas, while Faversham residents were invited to view plans for £100,000 defences back in February.

Helen Grant, Conservative MP for Maidstone and The Weald, has also long campaigned for improved flood defences in her constituency, which has been badly hit by disasters in recent years.

She told KoS: "The Flood Re scheme offers vital protection for flood affected properties, where no cover was available previously. This is one of the initiatives that along with colleagues I have been lobbying for ever since the Christmas floods of 2013.

"It is a vital step for my constituents who have been badly hit in previous years and inevitably fear for any future occurrences.

"I welcome this along with the additional £700m pledged by the chancellor for flood defences in his budget."

Mrs Grant's Conservative colleagues also expressed their delight at the launch of the scheme, with floods minister Rory Stewart saying: "Flooding is devastating. Nothing can take away the distress it causes.

"But affordable flood insurance will help people get back on their feet North & West



more quickly and secure their futures. "So the government and the insurance industry have worked together to establish Flood Re to provide affordable excesses and premiums for people in flood affected homes.

"It is great news that Flood Re is now open for business. It is fantastic step forward – making flood insurance affordable for people regardless of where they live."

Speaking after the launch on Monday, Flood Re's chief executive Brendan McCafferty added: "We have been working tirelessly to ensure we're ready so that consumers can start benefitting from greater choice and more competition in the insurance market.

"This should make flood cover more affordable and accessible to those in high flood risk areas over time.

"Consumers should check the Flood Re website to see which insurers are signed up, speak to their current insurer and be prepared to

shop around. When buying a policy they should make sure it is the best one for them, not just the cheapest."

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) announced earlier this year that the cost of damage caused by floods in Britain last winter was well over a billion pounds.

James Dalton, director of general insurance policy at the ABI, said: "It's great to see so many insurers ready to make use of Flood Re from launch.

"[This] is just the start of a process and we know more providers will join them over time, bringing even more choice for people with homes at risk of flooding.

"Insurance is an essential safeguard for your home and belongings.

"People in flood risk areas not being able to access affordable cover was a major concern, and why the insurance industry went to great lengths to design and create this world-first solution along with government."

County boosted by power of the grass roots cricket game

As the cricket season returns this weekend, we went to the county club's HQ to ask if the young talent in our schools is sufficient to finally deliver some success

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THE temperatures may still be struggling to break into double figures, and the spoils of the football season still have weeks before they are awarded, but this Sunday marks the start of the domestic cricket season.

But after years of steady decline in the domestic game, Kent Cricket Club's chief executive Jamie Clifford says the sport in the county at a grassroots level is outstripping many others and a fresh breed of local talent is bursting into its first team ranks.

And while concerns are still expressed over youngsters playing the sport in our schools, Mr Clifford says Kent's next generation of stars are getting the chance to fall in love with the most traditional of summer sports.

"We've got nearly 400 clubs in the county and schools cricket is still relatively strong," he told KoS this week.

"Don't get me wrong, on a nationwide basis I'd love to see cricket played from the first day of the school term to the last and as much of it through a school summer term as possible, but I'm a realist.

"We're a cricket county, we've always said that, and that isn't the case in every county, so while we've got that advantage we're keen to use it and produce our own players."

Cricket has suffered in recent years when it comes to appealing to a young audience bombarded with the glitz and glamour of the Premier League and its year-round appeal.

Adds Mr Clifford: "We're still very much focused on our academy and the way we bring through local talent.

"We've got the best conversion rate of academy scholars into professional cricket graduates in the country and we're very proud of that.

"We as a club, as Kent, believe we've got clubs and development programmes aligned to produce talented players for the county and we want to see Kent lads playing for us.

"Captain Sam Northeast is another

great demonstration of where the home-grown aspect of what we do is still important and still bearing fruit."

Add to that the loss of live Test matches to paid-for TV channels and a combination of poor form and poor attendance for County Championship games, and Kent has had to introduce a major rejig of its business side to cope.

A key issue has been the redevelopment of its historic St Lawrence Ground home in Canterbury.

Designed to transform it into a year-round modern facility capable of delivering revenues through all 12 months, at first, there was even talk of it attracting the occasional England one-day international.

But its timing was catastrophically bad, with the global recession sweeping in just when it needed it to be buoyant.

The result has been a far more modest offering at the club than first envisaged and a dip in the revenue potential as a consequence.

It's not all been bad however. The popularity of the T20 competition – a fast-paced 20-over format which

proves hugely popular with fans and TV audiences – is pumping in fresh money. Big crowds also swell the big profit potential of food and drink sales at the ground too.

With a steady flow of funding coming into the club as its sale of land has continued, the club's finances are on a firmer footing – improving year-on-year for the last six years.

In addition, the club invested in its County Ground in Beckenham – pulling in the south London crowd with some 10,000 spectators for six days of cricket last year.

The Canterbury ground is also hosting an open-air concert by Simply Red in June – the latest in a series of money-spinning concerts, which last summer saw Madness go down a storm.

But, as with all county cricket clubs, it remains a struggle.

"Our balance sheet is as strong as it was before we started the re-development programme, so we feel we're in reasonable shape," Mr Clifford said.

"But we will never rest on where we've got to, we've got a long-term job to do and that's Kent regularly win-



ning things and generating finances that allows us to re-invest in cricket.

"We're in a good place but we've got to make it work and Beckenham is part of that story – it's a great opportunity in another part of the county and we should be developing a following around there and getting that facility to work commercially as well."

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READY: Kent travel to Worcestershire for the start of their County Championship campaign on Sunday. Right, Kent skipper Sam Northeast and the club's chief executive Jamie Clifford. Both are feeling confident of success both on and off the pitch in the upcoming season. All pictures: ADY KERRY

But, as ever in the sporting arena, the key to growth is a winning side and Kent has struggled with that in recent years. Desperate to get out of the second tier of the County Championship – the contest which the fans

are most demanding of success - the mission this season will be made tougher due to changes in the top flight meaning only one team, rather than two, can gain promotion this year.

The fight for that spot will be intense. But the squad has been reinforced with the signings of New Zealand batsman Tom Latham and highly-rated South African bowler Kagiso Rabada.

If the club can put in a good championship campaign and bolster it with strong performances in the T20 and one-day competitions, even more youngsters might wake up to the pleasures of county cricket and those

finances may finally start to bloom.
Kent travel to Worcestershire for the first County Championship game today. The first home game is on May 1 when they take on Glamorgan over four days.



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Is Record Store Day's impact too much of a limited run?

Chris Britcher speaks to the man who brought the initiative to our shores

THERE remains something glorious about a slab of delicious fresh vinyl. The smell, the feel, the size; the disk itself may be a rather drab looking affair, but in today's digital age, holding a physical musical product in your hand is a bit of a novelty.

And were you to believe the hype, sales of vinyl records are bouncing back – embraced by those of us who poured over the inner and outer sleeve notes in years gone by, could drop a stylus perfectly on the run-in grooves with a steady hand and in a fraction of a second, or youngsters attracted to the retro feel of the things.

In 2014, 2.1 million vinyl albums were sold in the UK – up from just 1.3m the year before and the highest it has been in more than two decades.

But compare that with the total market of 1.22m sales, and you realise that it's fighting hard to secure a little over 1.5 per cent of the total market. It has long been dwarfed by CDs and, more recently, a tsunami of downloads and streaming.

But the fact demand is there, riding on a huge wave of nostalgic affection

for the desire to actually physically own your music, has suggested vinyl, while not quite dead, is hanging on in an induced coma but showing some fresh signs of life.

And one of the often referenced causes of its revival is Record Store Day – a celebration of independent outlets who get the chance to sell the sort of collectibles that make music lovers of a certain age start to drool. The words limited edition, picture disk, numbered, shaped and coloured vinyl are enough to ensure queues stretch down the street.

Next Saturday it returns again, with artists involved including the late David Bowie, the Small Faces and Primal Scream. But it will be without the man who helped launch it in the UK and for eight years was its UK co-ordinator.

Spencer Hickman, 46, introduced it to these shores from the original US initiative. Back then manager of London's acclaimed Rough Trade record store, today he and his partner have moved to Margate and four weeks ago opened a shop specialising in vinyl in Cliftonville.

Attracted, as so many Londoners



CROWDS: To snap up a special release you have to head in store

are to the property prices, the Transmission store is proving a hit online and developing a growing local customer base too. It will be taking part in Record Store Day. It is financed, primarily, through his primary job as label boss for Mondo Records and Death Waltz Recordings.

He is, perhaps, unique in being able to view the Record Store Day event as store owner, label boss and event organiser.

"It has helped people back into record stores and back into them permanently," he says of the initiative. "No-one cared about vinyl 10-15 years ago, and stores were struggling.

"Today the stores that are open are

doing OK. It remains a struggle, certainly, but there is a demand now. However, I don't think need just a one-day event anymore."

His label is planning a series year-round initiatives to keep the flow of releases and customers coming.

"But we need to remember that the vinyl market is niche and whatever we may think, it is never going to reach the heights it once reached.

"It's not going away, however. I'm convinced vinyl will outlast CDs.

"Whether it's because people like the sound, or are a collector, or simply want the cover to mount on their wall, it will always be there."

For record store owners, the rules on the special edition releases for the day are strict. A list of all the releases are mailed out well in advance and stores then place their orders for what they think will sell.

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vance – there is no sale or return in place – and there is a strict rule on not selling any product online until a week after the day itself or allowing any customer to pre-reserve a copy. The result will be a one-day revival in your local independent record store next Saturday.



REVIVAL: Vinyl sales account for less than two per cent of total sales

SPECIAL RELEASES FOR RSD

DAVID BOWIE

The Man Who Sold the World Beckenham's finest, the late, great David Bowie has two releases in this year's list of special releases. This is a picture disk of his LP featuring the German cover art.



Fire Engine

There will be just 500 copies of this single released on orange 7" vinyl and remastered to boot. The single was originally recorded in 1983 but never released.

JAMES

Greenpeace Palace Concert

A double LP long craved by fans of the indie band, it was recorded at the height of their fame in 1992 and was a 12-track acoustic performance. Comes on transparent vinyl with a download code too.

JOHN WILLIAMS

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

Expect the fan boys to be out in force in a bid to snap up a copy of this 10" picture disk of the soundtrack to the latest adventure in a galaxy far, far away.



JUSTIN BIEBER

Purpose

Don't expect to see only the middle-aged lining up to grab a special edition next weekend. This picture disk version of the big-selling recent album is likely to prove highly prized.



MADONNA

Like A Virgin & Other Big Hits

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ALAN PARTRIDGE

Knowing Me, Knowing You

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THE DOORS

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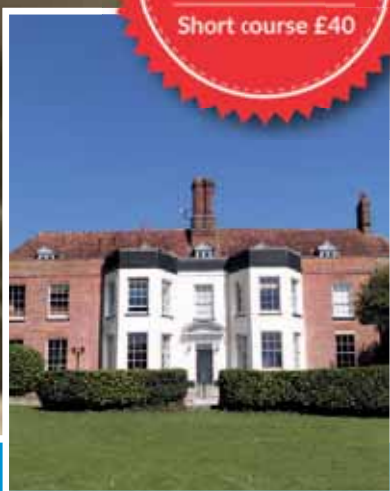
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Could osteopathy be the career for you?

If you're considering a career as a primary healthcare professional then perhaps osteopathy should be on your list of options.

Osteopathy is a distinct healthcare profession that is legally regulated in the UK. Having a UK recognised qualification in osteopathy allows practitioners to set up their own practices and, as primary healthcare professionals, they're able to both diagnose and treat patients.

Osteopaths use their hands to gently release muscles and joints with a variety of techniques working with the natural healing properties of the body. This then encourages healthy movement, which in turn restores healthy function.

Techniques involved could be massage, articulation, lymphatic drainage, manipulation of joints or the ever so gentle balancing techniques and cranial osteopathy. Appointment usually last between 30 and 45 minutes, which gives the osteopath time to fully understand their patient's complete state of health.

Osteopathy is recognised to reduce pain, increase joint mobility and relieve muscle tension. Most readily associated with the relief of backache, arthritic symptoms and exercise related injuries, osteopathy is actually a far broader healthcare approach. Based on the concept that the structure of the body is directly related to the function, osteopaths have positive health effects on a wide range of common conditions, and because it aims to improve the way that our bodies function it can be applied to patients of all ages.

Osteopaths work with elite athletes and top sports people, they work with Olympic teams and football clubs, they treat children, they treat pensioners.



Their holistic approach to health is appreciated across the population.

Maidstone is recognised as a centre of excellence for the training and practice of osteopathy and hosts the world renowned European School of Osteopathy (ESO). Founded in 1974, the School has been instrumental in the development of osteopathic education across Europe and beyond. The School currently has partner colleges in Russia, Poland, and Denmark, but it also helped the development of schools in France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Egypt and Italy.

Based at the beautiful Boxley House, the ESO provides undergraduate education validated as a partner college of the University of Greenwich. Its four year Integrated Masters degree is respected for having one of the most innovative and exciting ranges of techniques, which means graduates are well prepared to excel in an exciting and rewarding career. The ESO has a well-established and successful clinic, where its reputation for treating patients of all ages is well known.



So, if you think you would enjoy a career helping people of all ages and have an interest in human physiology and health, maybe osteopathy is for you. The ESO considers every application on the personal qualities of the applicant. If you don't have the required level of science qualifications the School runs a pre-entry science course in the summer, to get you up to speed.

For further information and informal advice contact the ESO's Admissions Team on 01622 671558 or visit www.eso.ac.uk.

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Many people only realise later in life where their true interests lie; as a result they may not have the higher level sciences needed for entry onto an osteopathic degree programme.

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Applicants are expected to have studied at minimum Level 3 (A-level or equivalent) prior to applying, or have appropriate work/life experience. The course is not intended for school leavers who have failed to meet offer conditions. Admission onto the SSC is subject to prior interview.

The course is delivered through group lectures at the School's Boxley campus. This year's course will take place from 1st to 12th August (Monday to Friday).

You can find more information about the Summer Science Course on the ESO's website. For an informal assessment please contact the Admissions Team - email admissions@eso.ac.uk or call 01622 671558

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To find out more visit

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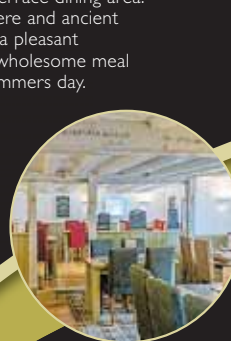
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ME13 9AL

01227 751343

www.whitehorseinn@live.co.uk

Within easy distance of Canterbury, Faversham and Whitstable, we are an award winning restaurant oozing with character and history. Using local suppliers and cooking 7 days a week, our chefs are happy to adapt our dishes to cater for all needs. Our Sunday roasts are extremely popular. Also a traditional pub with cosy seating, we offer 13 en-suite hotel rooms, outdoor seating and plenty of parking. A terrific place to meet up with friends and family!

BRIDGE



THE WHITE HORSE INN

Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5LA

01227 833830

www.whitehorsebridge.co.uk

Come and visit the newly refurbished White Horse Inn at Bridge. Dating back to the 16th century, this former coaching inn is located on the old London to Dover Road just 2.5 miles south of Canterbury.

Sample the delights of their bar and restaurant menus developed by their new chef, with the focus on fresh, flavoursome, locally sourced ingredients. Choose from the extensive and recently updated range of cask ales, ciders and wines. Relax and enjoy the ambience of a traditional pub, with beamed ceilings and roaring fires. Open every day, with ample car parking at rear.

BROADSTAIRS



CAPTAIN DIGBY

Whiteness Rd, Broadstairs
CT10 3QH

01843 867764

www.captaindigby.co.uk

The Captain Digby is an award winning family restaurant in Thanet and one of the most popular places to visit all year round. The Digby caters for couples and families alike with fantastic views overlooking Kingsgate Bay for the adults and an indoor play area for the children. It's well worth a visit, a warm welcome awaits.

BROADSTAIRS



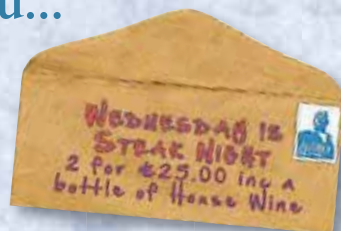
THE PAVILION

Harbour St, Broadstairs CT10 1EU
01843 600999

www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk

Welcome to the Broadstairs Pavilion. A wonderful Broadstairs seaside venue for weddings, functions, parties. Or if you don't have anything planned a great place to enjoy food and drink beside the sea and enjoy the wonderful views over Viking Bay. We have regular events for you to enjoy great live music and 80's themed evenings! Go to our events page on www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk to see what's up next. Pop by one evening, we're sure you won't regret!

Come and see our New Menu...



The Aviator
Queenborough Corner, Queenborough,
Sheerness, Kent ME12 3DJ

T: 01795 666094 | E: aviator@shepherd-neame.co.uk | W: www.aviatorsheerness.co.uk

a guide to KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

BROADSTAIRS



CHARLES DICKENS

5-6 Victoria Parade, Broadstairs
CT10 1QS
01843 600160

www.charlesdickensbroadstairs.co.uk

Welcome to the The Charles Dickens Pub. One of the largest pubs in Broadstairs, with the main bar downstairs serving great pub food, fine wine and ales and the Copperfields restaurant and bar upstairs commanding excellent views of Viking Bay. The chef's menus contain classic British ingredients, many of which are locally sourced and cooked with a modern twist. Our menu changes daily with a mixture of classic dishes & modern cuisine, light bites, sandwiches & wraps plus a selection of deli boards are all available.

CANTERBURY



THE HAYWAIN

Bramling, Canterbury, CT3 1NB
01227720676
thehaywainbramling.co.uk

Classic & Friendly Pub featuring hanging hop vines & assorted curios. This cosy snug is mainly used for dinners and meetings. Traditional games include darts and bat & trap. There is a Monday quiz night, and crib Wednesdays (during the winter). Four Real Ales & usually one from a Kent Brewery, and an annual beer festival is hosted over the spring bank holiday weekend in a marquee in the attractive garden. Excellent home cooked food using local produce is served (no food on Mondays).

Openings Times:
Monday 7-11 (Quiz Night) Tuesday – Saturday 12-3 and 6-11
Sun 12-4 (Sunday Roast - booking advised)

CANTERBURY



TWO SAWYERS

58 Ivy Lane, Canterbury, CT1 1TU
01227 454423
www.twosawyerscanterbury.co.uk

Charming 18th century character pub in Canterbury serving fresh homemade meals, which include an extensive range of gluten-free dishes. The freshly prepared traditional food is served 7 days a week and this compliments a large range of real ales, draught beers, wines and craft beers. The Sunday roast is a definite treat each week. The Two Sawyers is a family friendly pub loved by locals and visitors to the City. Relax beside the fire at winter time, or enjoy the sun trap courtyard on warmer days. The friendly welcome and relaxed atmosphere definitely add to the character of this hidden gem!

Opening Times:
Mon - Sat 11:00 - 23:00 Sun 12:00 - 22:30

CANTERBURY



TYLERS KILN

27 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill,
Canterbury CT2 9NE
01227 471912

www.tylerskiln.co.uk

Expect a warm welcome and a comfortable, relaxing environment where you can meet friends, enjoy traditional home cooked food and choose from an excellent selection of wines, beers, spirits, teas & coffees. We are passionate about bringing a real sense of community to the village, combining good food, good drink and good company.

Opening Times: Mon – Thu 11.00 - 23.30
Fri - Sat 11.00 - 00.30 Sun 12.00 - 23.00

CANTERBURY



MARLOWES

55 St. Peter Street, Canterbury, Kent
CT1 2BE
01227 462 194

www.marlowesrestaurant.co.uk

Marlowes Offers the perfect pit stop for fun and food. Set in the heart of Canterbury's bustling high street and just a stone throw from the cathedral, Marlowes restaurant offers something a bit different to other eateries in the area. Named after the city's famous playwright and just yards from the theatre, Marlowes makes a great place to grab something to eat before or after a show. Opened in 1984, it is believed to be Canterbury's longest-established restaurant and offers a unique range of meals from across the globe.

CHATHAM



WAGGON AT HALE

179 Capstone Rd, Chatham, ME5 7PP
01634 400800

www.waggonathale.com

The Waggon at Hale is an independent family run traditional country pub situated on Capstone Road, Chatham.

Emma and her team are here to offer you a warm and friendly welcome whether you are looking for somewhere to have a good pint of real ale or a glass of wine or looking to dine on our freshly prepared food served all day everyday.

Opening Times:
Mon-Sat: 10am - 11pm Sun: 10am - 10pm

DARGATE



THE DOVE AT DARGATE

Plum pudding Lane, Dargate
ME13 9HB
01227 751360

www.thedovedargate.co.uk

The Dove Inn is a quaint family run country pub and restaurant. We pride ourselves on our homemade range of locally sourced dishes. Our rustic al-fresco dining and garden bar is now open for the summer months, so whether you pop in for our famous home made Steak and Mushroom Pie and Pint on Thursday, 2 for 1 Wood fired Pizza on a Monday evening, our locally renowned Sunday lunch or our Rump of Welsh Lamb. We look forward to giving you a warm welcome at the Dove Inn soon.

DARTFORD



THE ORCHARD THEATRE

Home Gardens, Dartford DA1 1ED
Ticket Office: 01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk/Online/TheRestaurant

Complete your visit to the The Orchard Theatre with a first-class dining experience in The Restaurant, in the upper foyer, just footsteps from your seats. Whether it's a leisurely three-course meal or a quick snack, The Restaurant's seasonal menus offer a range of delicious dishes, using the freshest local produce prepared daily by our Head Chef.

THE BRITANNIA

10% Discount on all food and drink until the end of April.

The Britannia Restaurant

Tel. 01843 280609

Email: britannia.restaurant.gb@gmail.com

www.thebritannia-restaurant.co.uk

a guide to KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

FAVERSHAM



THE COURTYARD RESTAURANT

Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road
Faversham ME13 8XZ
01795 530013

www.courtyard-restaurant.co.uk

The Courtyard Restaurant at Brogdale is open every day for breakfast, lunches and afternoon tea. Enjoy home-cooked food using local produce and a very friendly service! Celebrate St George's Day on Saturday 23rd April when there will be craft stalls, food & drink tasting, kids activities including story-telling, BBQ, cider & ale bar along with live music!

FOLKESTONE



GURKHA PALACE

97 Enbrook Valley, Folkestone CT20 3NE
01303 257700
www.gurkhapalace.co.uk

Gurkha Palace Gurkha, Nepalese & Indian Restaurant brings you service with courtesy and grace, instilled over centuries of tradition, a simple restaurant serving traditional Nepalese dishes and Indian favorites.

FOLKESTONE



BLOOMS

2-4 South Street, Folkestone,
Kent, CT20 1RW
01303 250397

www.bloomsfolkestone.com
bloomsquarter@gmail.com

Blooms is a contemporary restaurant serving Mediterranean style food. We use locally sourced produce all freshly cooked to order. We bake a selection of handmade bread daily. Our bar has an exciting cocktail menu, local craft beer and a varied wine list. The weekday set lunch option is £12 for two courses. We are open from 10.00am Tuesday to Sunday serving food from 12.00pm - 15.00pm then 18.00pm - 21.00pm.

GRAVESEND



THREE DAWS RIVERSIDE INN

6 Town Pier, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0BJ
01474 566869
www.threedaws.co.uk

Welcome to the Three Daws
An historic riverside inn dating back to the 1400's steeped with tales of smugglers, Press Gangs, hauntings and much more.

- MEALS (LOCAL PRODUCE MENU) AVAILABLE ALL DAY
- FUNCTION ROOM & MEETING ROOMS FOR ALL OCCASIONS
- RIVERSIDE TERRACE
- OUR FRONTAGE OVERLOOKS THE NEW GRAVESEND PONTOON, IDEAL FOR VISITING BOATS/YACHTS

HERNHILL



THE THREE HORSESHOES

Staple Street, Hernhill, ME13 9UA
01227 750842

Pretty 17th Century pub, in lovely location. The Three Horseshoes holds regular themed evenings each month but the pub's overwhelming theme every day is friendliness. Everyone receives a warm welcome, even their dog! So if you want a traditional pub with customers as great as their food and beer then look no further than the Three Horseshoes. And the food is something to savour with fish and chips on Tuesdays for £5 and traditional roast dinners on Sundays from £13.95 for two courses and £15.95 for three courses.

Open Mon 5-11pm, Tues to Thurs 12-3pm & 5-11pm, Fri, Sat & Sun 12-11pm

HYTHE



HYTHE BRASSERIE

Douglas Avenue, Hythe, Kent, CT21 5JT
01303 267912
www.hythebrasserie.com

Personally managed by husband and wife team Nicki and Darragh Cartmill, Hythe Brasserie offers classical cuisine with a contemporary twist. Simple, warm decor creates an intimate atmosphere and is complemented by first class service without fuss to create a great dining experience. Welcome to Hythe Brasserie

Opening Hours
Tuesday 12.30 - last orders 14.30
Wednesday - Saturday 12.00 - last orders 14.00
19.00 - last orders 21.00

Annual holidays 14th - 21st June
20th September - 5th October
26th December - 11th January 2017

To reserve your table please call or email.

MAIDSTONE



THE COCK INN

Heath Road, Boughton Monchelsea,
Maidstone, Kent ME17 4JD
01622 743166

www.shepherdname.co.uk/pubs/maidstone/cock-inn

An Elizabethan chocolate box rural style pub, just a short drive from the centre of Maidstone and four miles from the world famous Leeds Castle, the Cock Inn wins the hearts of all who visit. Country cooking with a twist is a speciality of the pub's 42 seater restaurant using locally sourced ingredients, and there's always a good choice of ales, lagers and an extensive wine list to be enjoyed.

10% off all main meals with this advert

MARGATE



WALPOLE BAY HOTEL

Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JJ
01843 221703
www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk

Step back in time at the Walpole Bay Hotel living museum! The restaurant & terrace with sea views are open every day from 7am to non-residents serving delicious home-cooked food. Or stop by for one of their famous cream teas! Sunday luncheon is served with their resident pianist playing to keep you entertained, whilst you dine and wonder in awe at the Napier Gallery situated within the beautiful Edwardian dining room.

New A la Carte menu in the **Olive Tree Restaurant** and an invitation to try the new menu up to 30 June with a special Kent on Sunday,

2 for 1 offer*

* Cheapest meal free. Must pre book and mention 2 for 1 offer
Subject to availability

Singledge Lane, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL - Ample free parking
Tel 01304 821230 | www.ramadadover.co.uk



a guide to KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

MEOPHAM



THE GREEN MAN

The Green Man, Hodsoll Street
Nr Wrotham, Kent TN15 7LE
01732 823575

Email: the.greenman@btinternet.com
www.greenmanpub.com

The Green Man is a friendly, family run pub located in the picturesque hamlet of Hodsoll Street on the North Downs in beautiful Kent countryside. Your hosts are David, Jean and John Haywood and they lead a team of talented people who are there to ensure everyone has a great time. The extensive menu is prepared fresh to order from the finest ingredients and has something to suit all tastes. The cask ales and lagers are well kept and fine wines and spirits are available for those who do not enjoy a good pint. From flavoursome homemade meals and a selection of drinks, to a full calendar of entertainment, the Green Man Pub and Restaurant is a thriving local gem.

MERSHAM



THE FARRIERS ARMS

Church Rd, Ashford TN25 6NU
01233 720444

www.thefarriersarms.com

A Scrumptious taste of Kent, whether that be a pint or two of our own brewery's acclaimed Real Ales, a full gourmet meal, a bar snack or a selection from our Specials Board, one of our popular Sunday roasts or a glass (or a bottle!) of fine wine. Open 11 til late every day.

MERSHAM



SECRET GARDEN

Mersham-le-Hatch Business Village,
Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent TN25 6NH
01233 501586

www.secretgardenkent.co.uk

CREAM TEAS

Served 10am to 6pm

AFTERNOON TEA

Served from 2.30pm to 6pm

Please book for afternoon tea, without a booking we cannot guarantee that we will have enough of our scrummy sandwiches and freshly baked cakes to cater for you.

We need 24 hours notice please.

RAMSGATE



TARTAR FRIGATE

37-39 Harbour St, Broadstairs,
Kent CT10 1EU
01843 862013

www.tartarfrigate.co.uk

The historic Tartar Frigate is one of the only 18th century flint restaurants in Kent. Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in Kent, the Harbour restaurant boasts stunning panoramic views over Viking Bay in Broadstairs. If seafood isn't for you then you can take advantage of the extensive menu, which also includes mouth-watering traditional dishes from around the world. You won't be disappointed.

RAMSGATE



PEGWELL BAY HOTEL

81 Pegwell Rd, Ramsgate CT11 0NJ
01843 599590

www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk

In our bar/restaurant, we have mouth watering fare to please every palate. With a selection of Roast dinners being offered alongside our main menu, come and indulge in our home cooked delights and enjoy the views across the bay. Adjacent to the Pegwell Bay Hotel is our Sir Stanley Gray bar & restaurant, which can be accessed by a unique tunnel which runs under the road! Offering a cozy, comfortable setting the Sir Stanley Gray is far more welcoming than the average 'Hotel Bar'. Food is served daily from 12 midday right through until 9.00 pm.

ROCHESTER



THE HORSE SHOE AND CASTLE

Main Road, Cooling, Rochester,
Kent ME3 8DJ

01634 221691

www.horseshoeandcastle.com

- April 13th Special Dinner B&B £90.00 (2 courses)
 - 4 En-suite bedrooms, 4 star inn
 - Monthly Themed Gourmet & Burger Nights
 - Monthly Charity quiz
 - We Pride ourselves in supporting local suppliers and Producers. *Kentish Ale/Ciders
 - 5% off Food (only) with this advert.
- Sunday 9am – 11pm

SANDWICH



THE CRISPIN INN

The Crispin Inn, High Street,
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9EA

01304 621967

www.sandwichpubs.co.uk

The Crispin Inn, situated in the historic Cinqueport of Sandwich, retains the old world charm of the traditional English Pub.

Landlords, Pam and Terry, offer you a warm welcome and a good selection of traditional English beer and delicious home cooked food.

SHEERNESS



THE WHITE HOUSE

White House, The Broadway,
Minster On Sea, Sheerness ME12 2TE

01795 873997

www.thewhitehouse-restaurant.com

The Whitehouse originated as a Pub on the corner of The Broadway overlooking the seafront, it's a state of fashion, inspirational, young and young at heart, with its fresh atmosphere of fine modernity subtly spiced with that warm and familiar Indian charm. Come on down and experience Kent's runner up 'Best Indian Restaurant' to taste the real difference....



**Traditional home-cooked food
served all day, every day,
by happy and friendly staff!**

**Join us for live music every
Sunday lunchtime in the beer garden
(weather permitting of course!)**

**Find us just off the A253 between
Sarre & Preston, by the river Stour**



**Plucks Gutter, Canterbury CT3 1JB
Tel 01843 821264**

a guide to KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

SITTINGBOURNE



THE ROSE & CROWN

Lower Hartlip Road, Sittingbourne,
ME9 7SS

01795 842448

www.theroseandcrownhartlip.com

A traditional country pub with an undisturbed restaurant and a beautiful landscaped beer garden, set in the picturesque village of Hartlip.

The separate lounge and public bars, both with open fires, provide a warm and cosy atmosphere. Visit us Tuesday-Saturday to enjoy quality, home cooked food from the bar and restaurant menus, or on a Sunday for our very popular Sunday roast. Booking is advised.

Open: 12 noon to 11pm - Tues to Sat
12 noon to 7:30pm - Sun

TENTERDEN



MUMBAI GATE

The Royal Standard, Ashford Road,
Bethersden, Kent TN26 3LF
01233 820800 / 820280

www.mumbaigate.co.uk

Mumbai Gate in Bethersden, Kent offers Fine dining at its best, providing authentic flavours. Follow our facebook and twitter to keep up to date on all our live events! Remember to call and book your tables now, our menu selections will delight the eye and the palette, dinner and lunch available.

Openings Times:
Monday 7-11 (Quiz Night) Tuesday - Saturday 12-3
and 6-11 Sun 12-4 (Sunday Roast - booking advised)

TUNBRIDGE WELLS



SOPRANO TAPAS AND WINE BAR

56 High St, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1XF
01892 535842

www.sopranowinebar.co.uk

Soprano is a successfully established Tapas restaurant and bar located in the attractive Tunbridge Wells Old High Street. Soprano brings a refreshing new option to dining out in Tunbridge Wells. As a fully established fitted restaurant, you'll find a tastefully decorated modern restaurant with a cosmopolitan cafe bar feel. Soprano is open daytime and evenings, providing a welcome addition to the leisure culture of the surrounding area. Visit for a light lunch or a relaxed evening meal.

WEST MALLING



FRANKS RESTAURANT

53-57 High Street, West Malling
Kent ME19 6QH

01732 843247

www.franksrestaurantandmusselbar.com

Franks Restaurant and Mussel Bar is situated in the bustling, picturesque market town of West Malling in Kent. We have a great selection of food and drinks on offer, though our forte is mussels cooked 21 ways. We are housed in a 16th century building full of wonderful charm and character, with an open log fire place, exposed beams and a cosy atmosphere that has recently been refurbished.

MUSSELS EVERY NIGHT- Mussel specials Mon & Thur
Daily lunches • A la carte menu • Sunday Roast
Choice of 21 Moules • Belgian Beers

WESTBERE



THE YEW TREE

32 Westbere Lane, Westbere CT2 0HH
01227 710501

www.yewtreewestbere.co.uk

We are Anna, Mark, a not so big Alice and a very little Ellen. We aim to make the Yew Tree one of your favourite pubs in Kent. The interior is heavily beamed and boasts a large inglenook fireplace providing a cosy environment in the winter.

The large beer garden offers the perfect setting for a summer afternoon, whether enjoying a beer or a bite to eat.

Opening Times: Sun 11:30 - 22:30, Tue - Fri
11:30 - 15:30 & 17:30 - 23:00 Sat 11:00 - 23:00

WINGHAM



THE ANCHOR AT WINGHAM

1-3 Station Approach, Birchington
Kent CT7 9RD

01227 720 392

www.theanchoratwingham.com

An award winning family friendly, traditional village pub in the heart of Wingham. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly atmosphere in which to enjoy high quality Real Ales, Wines and excellent Pub Food at very reasonable prices. We have a large family garden with Petanque and Bat and Trap in Summer and roaring log fires in Winter. Regular Live Music, Quizzes, Darts and Bar Billiards, in fact, everything you would associate with a traditional Kentish Pub.

WROTHAM



THE BULL HOTEL

Bull Lane, Wrotham, Kent TN15 7RF
01732 789800

www.thebullhotel.com

Come and try the first real smokehouse in Kent!

Enjoy a selection of authentic, mouthwatering BBQ favourites including ribs, pulled pork and steak alongside the freshest side dishes and amazing homemade sauces, all prepared by our Michelin listed chefs. Match with one of our fine craft beers for a perfect combination. Call 01732 789800 to book your table.

YALDING



THE GEORGE

4 Benover Road, Yalding, Maidstone
Kent ME18 6ES

01622814376

www.thegeorgeyalding.co.uk

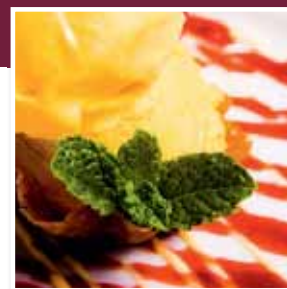
Family friendly pub, outside events including a great garden for many uses, including fishing facilities and live music. Homemade Pizza's and a great menu served all day and Sunday roast. Sky and BT sports Special OAP set menu days Monday to Wednesday 12 to 5pm.

See us on Facebook & TripAdvisor .



Fresh, Fun, a little Different. Welcome to Hythe Brasserie...

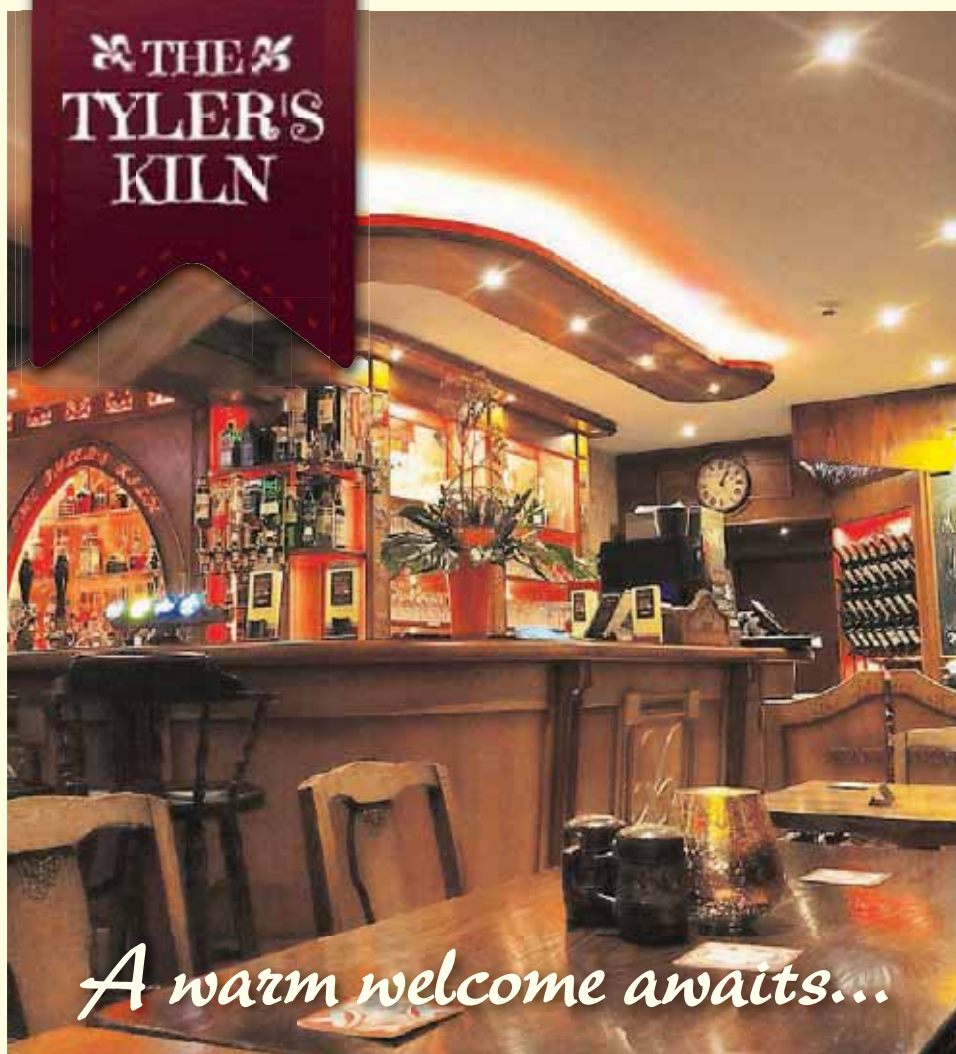
Classical cuisine with a contemporary twist. Simple, warm decor creates an intimate ambiance and is complemented by first class service without fuss to create a great dining experience.



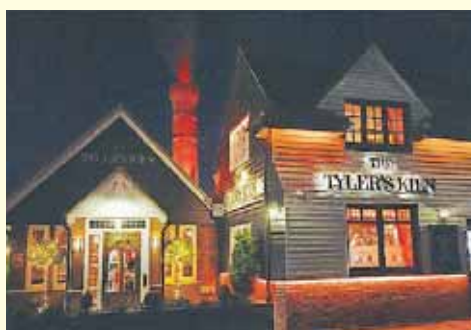
Douglas Avenue, Hythe, Kent, CT21 5JT

Tel: 01303 267 912 | info@hythebrasserie.com | www.hythebrasserie.com

THE TYLER'S KILN



A warm welcome awaits...



LIVE MUSIC

FIRST SUNDAY EACH MONTH

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT

PIE & PINT

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

STEAK & WINE

PUB QUIZ

LAST MONDAY NIGHT EACH MONTH

NEW BINGO LOUNGE

EVERY 2ND MONDAY

**A warm welcome
awaits you at the
beautifully
refurbished
Tyler's Kiln.**

Traditional home-cooked
food, a wide
range of wines, beers,
spirits & hot drinks
served with
home-made shortbread.

Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Canterbury CT2 9NE | TalkToUs@thetylerskiln.co.uk

Tel 01227 471912 | www.thetylerskiln.co.uk

Holidays

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info@gnvoyages.co.uk
www.gnvoyages.co.uk

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9.30am to 12.30pm
Saturdays
Closed Bank Holiday weekends.



8 days
full board
plus - from £899
SALE FROM
£859^{pp}

Free Drinks
Private Charter
Entertainment
Over 40s only

Amsterdam to Bruges River Cruise

Escorted Holiday by Rail or Air
19 September, 2016 • Quote: AB9

Join us on our private charter of MPS Princess with great food and service and a fun and friendly atmosphere. We start in Amsterdam and have a full day and two evenings to explore before sailing to Kinderdijk, which has 19 windmills and a landscape straight from a Rembrandt masterpiece before heading for a harbour cruise in Rotterdam. Sailing into Belgium, we visit Antwerp - the diamond capital, and stunning architecture of Ghent before arriving in Bruges with a full day and two evenings to enjoy before returning to the UK.

INCLUDED: Escorted return rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet or return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 7 night cruise sharing a twin rear cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine, & soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea • Buffet breakfasts and lunches • Dinner served at your table • 4 courses • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner • 5 courses • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board



8 days
full board
plus - from £999
SALE FROM
£949^{pp}

Boppard Rhine in Flames & Moselle River Cruise

Escorted Holiday by Rail or Air
22 September, 2016 • Quote: RR9

Join us for a scenic, fun-packed cruise onboard the 4-star mps Rembrandt Van Rijn taking in Cologne, Koblenz, Cochem, Zell, Rudesheim and Boppard, where you'll see the Rhine in Flames festival. Originally held to celebrate the grape harvest, this spectacular pyrotechnics show also features an illuminated flotilla of riverboats. Also enjoy the Boppard Wine Festival featuring wines from local vineyards, live music and entertainment.

INCLUDED: Escorted return rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet to Belgium and coach to Cologne or return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports to Cologne - supp't may apply • 7 nights full board cruise sharing a twin outside main deck rear cabin - upgrades available • Beer, wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Captains Dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board



8 days
full board
plus - from £999
SALE FROM
£949^{pp}

Free Drinks
Private Charter
Entertainment
Over 40s only

Bingen Rhine in Flames & Moselle River Cruise

Escorted Holiday by Rail or Air
31 August, 2016 - Quote: RN8

This fabulous cruise takes in the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, Bingen's wine festival and fireworks display, captivating scenery, picturesque towns and more. If all of this is not enough, add the 4-star MPS Johannes Brahms, providing just 80 guests with a friendly crew, great food, superb service, entertainment and spacious en-suite cabins - all with picture windows. With visits to Cologne, Andernach, Rudesheim, Bingen, Cochem and Boppard, this is a magical voyage that will stay in your memory for years to come.

INCLUDED: Escorted return rail travel from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet to Belgium and coach to Cologne or return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports to Cologne - supp't may apply • 7-night full board cruise sharing a twin bed, main deck rear cabin - upgrades available • Beer, wine by the glass, and soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board



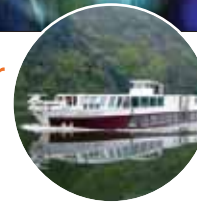
5 days
full board
plus - from £699
SALE FROM
£669^{pp}

Dutch Delights New Year Party River Cruise

Escorted Holiday by Rail or Air
29 December, 2016 • Quote: NY12

Celebrate the New Year in style on board the 4-star MS Johannes Brahms river cruiser. Starting in Amsterdam - the Dutch capital (2 nights) - we sail to Kinderdijk, which has 19 windmills in a stunning a landscape straight from a Rembrandt painting, before heading for Rotterdam, where we count down to 2017 with a New Year party and a spectacular fireworks display over the city's Erasmus Bridge.

INCLUDED: Escorted return rail travel from London St Pancras and Ebbsfleet to Amsterdam OR return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4-night full board plus cruise sharing a twin-bed rear cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine and soft drinks served at lunch, dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Entertainment • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board



At last! Quality and reliable property maintenance in Kent!

Maintain Total Property Care Ltd identified a large gap in the market in Kent and throughout the South-east for reliable, efficient, highly-skilled and affordable people to maintain properties in good order: builders, roofers, decorators, plumbers, electricians and other operatives. Their engineers and other workmen are able to complete their jobs without the distraction of having to deal with administration as they provide full back-office support.

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Has warm winter put small bird figures up?

More than 18,500 people in Kent took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch, painting a picture of bird populations...

THE number of birds spotted in our back gardens are remaining steady, according to the latest figures from one of the world's biggest wildlife surveys.

Now in its 37th year, the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch offers an open invitation for anyone to take part, and involves simply monitoring the number of birds and their variety in their garden.

Some 18,500 people took part in Kent alone – with, nationally, more than half a million monitoring their feathered friends.

In order, the most frequent visitors to our gardens over the past 12 months are the house sparrow, starling, blue tit, woodpigeon and blackbird.

In total, some eight million sightings were recorded – allowing experts at the RSPB to then analyse the mountain of gathered statistics to get a good idea of the state of Britain's bird life evolution.

The changes to our bird population since the survey started in 1979 shows some incredible changes.

The house sparrow used to enjoy huge populations, but this has slumped 57 per cent since the late 1970s.

Starlings have had a harder time with an 80 per cent drop, and the blackbird reduction is just over 38 per cent. Even the Christmas favourite, the robin has declined just under 30 per cent. But not all populations are dropping.

The woodpigeon for example has grown in size by 1,051 per cent since 1979. The great tit has swelled by 78 per cent and the collared dove by 305 per cent. The little known coal tit has been boosted by 272 per cent.

Dr Daniel Hayhow, RSPB conservation scientist, said of this year's results: "Sightings of well known species such as starlings and song thrushes have experienced another drop."

"This decline continues a trend that has seen the number of both species visiting gardens decline by 81 and 89 per cent retrospectively since the first Birdwatch in 1979."

A spokesman for the RSPB says its experts are linking the increase in sightings of

smaller gardens birds such as the great tit, to the mild weather in the months leading up to the new survey.

It said small, insect-eating birds are particularly susceptible to the cold as the food they rely on is hard to come by in frosts and snow, so milder conditions are likely to have contributed to a higher survival rate.

During periods of colder temperatures birds struggle to find food in the wider countryside so become more reliant on garden feeders. Great tits, and other smaller birds, have adapted to feeding on

seeds and peanuts at bird tables or from hanging feeders.

Dr Daniel Hayhow added: "The increase in numbers of sightings of these smaller garden birds highlights the importance of a well stocked bird feeder for some species."

"Despite the boost in great tit numbers many other Kent garden favourites are struggling.

Sightings of well known species such as blackbirds and starlings have experienced another drop during the Big Garden Birdwatch this year, which saw the number of both species visiting gardens decline as compared to 2015."

Ben Andrew, RSPB wildlife advisor, added: "A lot of our favourite garden birds are struggling

and are in desperate need of help. Gardens or outdoor spaces are an invaluable resource for many species. They can provide a safe habitat with food and water; having a significant effect on their populations."

The figures have generally mirrored the charity's Big Schools' Birdwatch, which also continues to break records for participation.



TOP: The sparrow, above, remains on the top of the table when it comes to the number spotted in our gardens but the numbers have dropped significantly over the years. The starling, right, comes second. All pictures courtesy of the RSPB

TOP 20 BIRDS IN OUR GARDENS



FOLLOWING the most recent RSPB survey, the following lists the top 20 birds most commonly found in our back gardens and, perhaps most significantly, the percentage rise and fall since the Big Garden Birdwatch first began back in 1979.



- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. House sparrow (-57.8) | 12. Maggie (+172.7) |
| 2. Starling (-80.8) | 13. Dunnock (n/a) |
| 3. Blue tit (+15.2) | 14. Jackdaw (n/a) |
| 4. Blackbird (-38.2) | 15. Coal tit (+272.9) |
| 5. Woodpigeon (+1051.5) | 16. Carrion crow (n/a) |
| 6. Goldfinch (n/a) | 17. Feral pigeon (n/a) |
| 7. Chaffinch (-45.9) | 18. Greenfinch (-44.3) |
| 8. Great tit (+78.4) | 19. Common gull (n/a) |
| 9. Robin (-29.9) | 20. Wren (n/a) |
| 10. Long-tailed tit (n/a) | |
| 11. Collared dove | |

VISITORS: Clockwise from top left, the chaffinch, robin, blackbird and blue tit

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Do your teeth cause you embarrassment?

Then why don't you do something about it?

We seem to have accepted the gradual loss of our teeth as a natural part of growing old. The same could be said for getting a denture...that's the next stage, isn't it? Just because our parents and grandparents settled for early tooth loss and a plastic denture does not mean we have too?

Meet The Expert

Pieter Claassen BChD, MSc (implant Dentistry) has joined Hanover House Dental. Pieter (pictured) completed his Masters in dental implants from Warwick University, with merit, and has been doing dental implants for over 12 years now. Having qualified as a dentist in 1999, Pieter has experience in a vast range of dental treatments, and is still passionate about delivering life-transforming dental implants.

Mike's Story

Mike Jones from Kent is a typical



example. He is a teacher at a very prestigious boys' school. Working with children requires an iron will and you can't afford to leave any weaknesses open for teasing.

Over the years, through no fault of his own, Mike lost many teeth having each one added to his denture. With each tooth that was lost so was the bone lost around the natural tooth. Mike was looking for a new solution; he didn't want to wear a denture! He visited his local dentist to enquire about dental implants and was referred to a London training hospital for an assessment. The hospital concluded that Mike has lost so much bone that he would not be a suitable candidate for dental implants. This was a real low point for Mike, he was destined to live a life wearing ill-fitting dentures that caused pain and discomfort and looked unsightly too.

Loss Of Courage

Tooth loss causes people to change what they eat, basing their choices around soups or other soft foods. Whatever food they chose invariably ends up under the dentures and can irritate the gums unless it is cleaned shortly after eating which can lead to awkward, embarrassing moments. In some cases people stop living, they stop dating because of the fear that a new partner will find out that they wear a denture. This has a huge effect on social lives and confidence often leading to depression.

It's A Success

He started to re-arrange the layout of his classroom so that the desks were further away from him when he was teaching.

His confidence was at an all time low, it had even started to effect his posture, so much that he started hunching over.

Years later he made an appointment to see a new dentist, Dr Pieter Claassen, at Hanover House Dental. Dr Claassen took one look at Mike's dentures and said something Mike had been waiting to hear for years, I have a solution! Pieter believed there was still enough bone to allow dental implant placement. Mike had a 3D X-ray taken of both his jaws. The X-ray was imported into specialist software which Pieter used to simulate implant placement. Good news: there was enough bone available.

Mike underwent the simple procedure of dental implant placement. The implants were placed which now holds the denture in place so it doesn't move, he can eat and it will never fall out! Teeth in one day!

Approximately three-months after the placement, impressions will be taken for the new teeth to be constructed and securely fitted to the new implants.

Common Problems For Denture Wearers

- Not being able to eat what you want
- Having to use fixative several times a day which is difficult to remove from your denture
- Your confidence has dropped
- You don't enjoy food anymore because of the denture covering the roof of your mouth
- You find yourself talking with your hand in front of your mouth to either stop a loose denture from moving or to hide an embarrassing gap
- When did you last smile?
- You no longer join in for photos or when you do you stand at the back

Dreams Come True

During the treatment, Pieter commented to his nurse that Mike



Hanover House
CALM & GENTLE DENTISTRY

would regain so much confidence that he will start to walk taller.

During one of his review appointments, Mike coincidentally said he feels so much taller now.

His new teeth have breed a new confidence that has encouraged him to take up his dream of learning Spanish. Mike studied the language in Spain for three months in an intimate classroom environment.

Fixed non-removable teeth are also an option for those in Mike's position.

This enriching experience prompted Pieter to develop a challenge: If you cannot eat a piece of steak after completing your prescribed dental implant programme, your treatment is free!

For More Information

www.painlessdentalimplants.co.uk

Address: Hanover House Dental Clinic, 203 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1BW

Call 01732 807590

Loving Care 2016

Your guide to care homes,
sheltered housing, in-home
care, loneliness and dementia

WITH an increasing ageing population, the question of how best to care for the elderly is a pertinent one. And there are a number of local care providers and organisations offering good advice.

In this guide, we take a look at dementia and how it can impact on carers as well as the person diagnosed, and examine the negative effects of loneliness on elderly people and what can be done to help them.



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Residential Care Home



Invitation

Join us as we celebrate spring at our new Meadow View Residential Care Home, with springtime animals popping in at 11am. From 2pm we will have musical entertainment and you can take part in an engaging workshop from local dementia charity, Bright Shadow.

Delicious refreshments, including chick-themed cupcakes, will also be available for a small charge.

Carefully chosen for their kind and compassionate approach, our staff provide residential dementia care.

You will have the opportunity to meet our residents and staff and view our stunning home.

Friday 15 April 2016, 11am - 4pm

at Meadow View Residential Care Home, Blackthorn Road, Hersden,
Canterbury, Kent CT3 4GB

Please bring this invitation with you.

www.sanctuary-care.co.uk

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Loving Care 2016

Help elderly to tackle loneliness

Social isolation and loneliness can lead to elderly people developing physical and mental health problems. We take a look at what loneliness does and organisations around Kent that can help...

KKNOWN to cause a number of both physical and mental illnesses, loneliness and social isolation are extremely harmful to elderly people.

According to Age UK, half of all people over the age of 75 live alone and one in ten people aged 65 and over – a total of more than one million – say that they 'always' or 'often' feel lonely.

Research carried out by the Campaign to End Loneliness revealed that 17 per cent of older people in the UK say that they are in contact with their family, friends and neighbours less than once a week.

The Department of Health has said that socially isolated adults are more likely to undergo early admission into residential nursing care.

Loneliness can also increase the risk of heart disease, blood clots and dementia.

If you live near to an elderly person who may be lonely and in need of support, are you able to pop in and visit them from time to time?



LONELY: Social isolation can lead to illnesses

Even having a cup of tea with them once or twice a week could make a big difference to their health and wellbeing.

However, if this is not possible, there are a number of charities and organisations in the county aiming to help elderly people who are facing

loneliness.

CARM (Caring All together on Romney Marsh) provides support and services to older and vulnerable people living on Romney Marsh and in parts of rural Ashford.

The charity runs weekly reminiscence sessions for groups of older people, with a group of trained volunteers using a number of different props in order to encourage and trigger memories.

They also offer a befriending service to those who are unable to leave their home without assistance.

This involves a regular volunteer paying a visit, either weekly or fortnightly, to elderly people in their homes, providing elderly people the chance to talk to someone.

Telephone calls are also offered once or twice a week.

In a statement posted on CARM's website, one of the volunteers said: "I feel privileged to be a visitor as I enjoy meeting people and it is often very humbling to learn about people's lives in times past."

"It is very rewarding when you

visit someone to see the pleasure it gives them to have someone to talk and laugh with."

To refer someone to the service, or to make an enquiry, you can call 01233 758122 or visit www.carm-romneymarsh.org.uk.

A befriending service is also offered by West Kent Age UK, with volunteers being carefully matched with clients and arranging to see them at times that are mutually convenient, for between one to three hours.

The service is available to those who live in Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells.

Referrals should only be made with permission from the person involved, and can be done by calling 0800 048 4668 or by emailing befriending@ageukmaidstone.org.uk.

Charity Contact The Elderly covers a number of areas in the county including Medway, Herne Bay, Whitstable and Tenterden.

Visit www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk for more details.



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or visit our website: www.chrysaliscarefostering.org





Barnes Lodge, Providing Care and Companionship for the Community of Tonbridge



In a bid to make provisions for the future and support the community of Tonbridge, back in 2014, The Abbeyfield Kent Society secured planning permission to develop a new care home, Barnes Lodge, alongside a new extra care housing scheme, for the older people of Tonbridge.

Barnes Lodge will comprise 101 en suite bedrooms, with a range of communal facilities including themed shop and library areas, an activity room, hair and beauty salon and landscaped gardens.

The care home is scheduled for completion later this year and work is due to start on the extra care housing, due for completion in 2018, in the autumn. The extra care housing will comprise of a mix of one and two bedroom apartments available for rent and market sale.

Abbeyfield Kent will be hosting an open day at Christ Church in Tonbridge High Street (main entrance is opposite McDonalds) on Wednesday 20th April, to showcase its new care home – Barnes Lodge. Whether you want to enquire about the care services, discuss job vacancies with our HR team or simply find out a bit more about the development, drop in between 12pm-7pm to have a chat with our friendly team.

For more information e-mail media@abbeyfieldkent.org or call 01634 729161.

Loving Care 2016

Helping yourself to help others

With some 850,000 people in the UK already diagnosed with some form of dementia, here is some advice for the spouses, partners and relatives who may have become carers for their loved ones....

DEMENTIA rates are believed to be on the rise, with around 850,000 people in the UK already diagnosed with some form of the condition.

Research carried out by Alzheimer's Society revealed that the total population prevalence of dementia among people over the age of 65 is 7.1 per cent.

The number of people 'living with' dementia however is far higher.

Because – as with a number of conditions – it isn't an illness that only impacts the person who actually has it.

Dementia affects those around them too, especially the spouses, partners and relatives who become carers for their loved one.

It's important – as carers, medical professionals and as a society – to be aware of carers' needs, and know that support is just as vital as diagnosis.

Research carried out by the Alzheimer's Society revealed that most GPs believe their patients with



CARERS: Some patients with dementia need to rely on families and unpaid carers for support

dementia have to rely on families and unpaid carers.

"While there are positive aspects of caring, such as learning new

skills, strengthening relationships and supporting someone who is important to you, it can also be both physically and mentally exhaust-

ing," says George McNamara, head of policy and public affairs at Alzheimer's Society.

"Sadly it can be common for car-



ers to struggle, and many experience stress and depression," adds Susan Drayton, clinical lead for Admiral Nursing DIRECT at Dementia UK.

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 Shared Lives



“ We believe it is one of the most rewarding things you'll ever do! ”



Loving Care 2016



HELP: Support and services are there for those who need them

"Dementia can still have negative connotations and many people are unaware of the support and services available. Older carers can also have their own complex physical and emotional needs, which can add to the challenges of caring for a spouse with dementia."

Support is out there.

Just acknowledging that being a carer can be challenging, and that it's normal to find it a struggle at times, can make a big difference to people, but actual support is also very important too.

"A simple phone call to a specialist, like one of our Admiral Nurses on our helpline, can help carers feel less iso-

lated, and we can also point them in the direction of local support services," says Ms Drayton.

"Our helpline is staffed by expert Admiral Nurses who provide practical and emotional support for family carers, as well as health professionals," she added.

"We've seen a 78 per cent increase

in calls over the last year, and callers have described the helpline as a 'life-line' when they've needed support."

It's important to remember that you're not alone.

Talking openly about how you're coping and feeling doesn't come naturally for everybody, but talking to others who are going through – or have previously been through – similar situations, can be immensely helpful.

And even if you don't want to 'open up' about your personal situation immediately, just spending time with other carers and people who understand what living with dementia is like can be a big relief and a confidence boost.

"Many find it helpful to talk about their feelings with their friends and family or those in a similar situation.

"Online forums such as Alzheimer's Society Talking Point can be a useful source of support and practical suggestions, or simply a place for carers to let off steam after a difficult day," says Mr McNamara.

"Other types of support include local groups, which can be found through our website. GPs, counselors and other professionals can also offer support."

Feeling guilty is normal, but it is not necessary.

Being a good carer does not mean you should never admit that you need a break, a change of scene or that

you'd like some time to yourself.

In fact, while it's totally normal to feel guilty about these things, it's actually extremely important that carers do look after their own needs too – and that means having some time off, even if it's just a few hours here and there to go for a walk, enjoy a hobby, or simply have a bath, eat a meal and watch TV uninterrupted.

"Guilt is very common, carers can feel they're never doing enough for the person they're caring for," explains Ms Drayton.

"But it is so important that carers look after themselves, by talking to someone and accessing services that support them.

"By investing in the health and wellbeing of carers, who provide the lion's share of care, we in turn are then providing better care for the person with dementia.

"It's important that carers don't feel they have to cope on their own."

The Admiral Nursing DIRECT helpline is open from Monday to Friday, 9.15am to 4.45pm and on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm to 9pm.

You can contact the helpline on 0845 257 9406.

Alternatively you can email direct@dementiauk.org.

You can also visit the Alzheimer's Society Talking Point online forum at www.alzheimers.org.uk/talkingpoint.

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DANCE partner, 70-75, sought by lady in Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421071

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box: 420237

GENUINE single female 49, seeking good natured, intelligent, polite, single male for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox: 4198603

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

KIND, caring lady of African origin, living in UK for past 20 years, looking for a gentleman who is kind and caring, must have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421041

SINGLE late 60s female, n/s, GSOH, likes going out and being active, not fun on my own, seeking single male, 66-70, n/s, with GSOH, to share each others interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421433

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box: 419673

MATURE lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising. WLTm similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421429

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any area, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box: 421375

SLIM female GSOH, 53, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600

PAMELA, 33yrs, has a naughty side which she wants to share with similar minded discreet gent. You should be 30+ and have a wicked SOH. Box: 4031004 Text only

KIND lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419889

JESS, London based but can travel and accommodate, 39yrs recently single and looking for no strings fun, may lead to more but not yet. Gents 40+ please, open minded, discreet and fun. Box: 4107546 Text only

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel: 0906 515 3038 Box: 407953

ANGELA, 53, African origin, looking for a kind, genuine, caring gentleman, 60 years +. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421039

ABIGAIL, 33yrs slim sophisticated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasures with a discreet experienced man, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3014 Box 421339

SINGLE slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091

MARIE, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

PAT, slim, single, 68, non-smoker, GSOH, likes going for walks etc, seeks male, slim, single, 66-70, non-smoker, clean-shaven, GSOH, with similar interests. Canterbury area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

MARION, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

CHANTELLE, 51/3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy, Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

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SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

PAT, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 41" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTm professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

CHRIS widower, likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

MALE, 6ft, slim, 67, divorced, retired, likes social drinks, meals out, nights in and all other, WLTm lady with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421351

MATURE cross dressing guy, seeking lady willing to apply a full make over and give a manicure and pedicure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421341

MALE 50, GSOH, looking for soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387485

MALE, 55 looking for mature lady for outings and adult fun, easy going, GSOH, nice looking and a bit shy. Text only Mailbox: 4922399

LEON, single Dad, recently widowed, 55yrs, very kind and generous would love to meet a kind lady, looks not important but must love children. Box: 4068577. Text only

YOUNG 50s male looking for discreet daytime kisses and cuddles with nice female, Kent and Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421601

FEMININE sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meets, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, just retired, own house, loves holidays, WLTm a lady for meals out, and to enjoy each others company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419751

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163

HUBERT, lives in Rochester, single, lonely, looking for someone to get together with and make something happen and enjoy the rest of life with! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420449

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750

CLINT, 37, kind, caring, honest and WLTm someone of any age who is similar and looking for a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951

HEALTHY 61yr old male, N/S, medium build, likes France, cooking, gardening, seeks female, 50-60 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 286360

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163

NEVILLE 5ft 6ins, Caribbean, likes wine, nights in, seeks female to spend the rest of his life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333911

BARRY, 50, 6ft, well-built, seeks lovely lady for good times, loving and enjoying life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421047

MALE, 60, medium build, gosh, seeks attractive female, under 50, for no strings, discreet, daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420621

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, just retired, own house, likes holidays, reading, cinema, WLTm similar professional lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420767

MATTHEW, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469

PAUL, 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

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YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

MALE 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201

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PROFESSIONAL gentleman, just retired, own house, loves holidays, WLTm a lady for meals out, and to enjoy each others company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419751

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BARRY, 50, 6ft, well-built, seeks lovely lady for good times, loving and enjoying life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421047



Gay Seeking
WHITE Knight 59'5" tall, OHAC, in shining armour, looking for Damsel in Distress of similar age to share fun & laughter. Text only to Mailbox no: 5073004

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MATURE guy, loves CD, seeks similar friend for mutual fun, can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421093

MALE likes CD, seeking similar male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418513

BI guy heavy build, WLTm assertive adventurous white or Indian guy for mutual pleasure. Text only to Mailbox no: 4321273

ALAN, 68, straight acting gay man, kind, caring with GSOH, likes sport, art and going on holidays, looking for another gay man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421529

ROBBIE, 54, reasonably fit, bi-curious, I'm very inexperienced and would like to meet a CD or TV preferably but not essential for a bit of fun. Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421357

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

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HISTORY: Writer Anne O'Brien will be giving a talk on her book, *The Queen's Choice*, at Leeds Castle next month. Picture by: Ben Peter Catchpole

Helping readers empathise with women from the past

Molly Kersey-Law spoke to writer Anne O'Brien about her work and her talk...

BESTSELLING historical author Anne O'Brien will be hosting a talk at Leeds Castle, Maidstone, next month.

The former history teacher released her first book in 2005, and focuses on a number of the 'forgotten women of history' in her work - with her subjects including Anne Neville and Katherine Swynford.

Ms O'Brien will be signing copies of her new book - *The Queen's Choice* - at the event.

The book tells the story of Joanna of Navarre - an intelligent French princess who married Henry IV and was later imprisoned for witchcraft in Leeds Castle by his son.

So how does the writer go about bringing historical women to life in her work?

"The factual information has to be there first. There has to be an ac-

curate story," she explained.

"When there's information lacking on the woman - and in this case it was fairly thin - then it's a matter of looking at what's happening around her at court, what her husband was doing and what the influence on her would have been at the time," she added.

"Then to make a viable history for her I start with a timeline of what's going on and who her life connects with and from that it's possible to write a story.

"The people who read it don't want simply a history lesson.

"If they did they would pick up a history book.

"They want to be involved with the character, they want to feel empathy for her, what she is forced to do and what she chooses to do.

"That's where my imagination has to come in to make her a 3D fig-

ure so that she comes alive and the reader can think - 'yes I understand why she does that' or 'how could she do that?'"

Leeds Castle is obviously a very fitting setting for Ms O'Brien's talk given Joanna of Navarre's imprisonment there.

Following Henry IV's death she was accused of attempting to destroy his heir, Henry V, using 'sorcery and necromancy'.

She was arrested and spent part of her imprisonment at the castle.

Ms O'Brien explained that although it was a 'comfortable imprisonment', it would still have been very frightening, with the punishments for witchcraft being severe at the time.

"She was never brought to trial and never condemned as a witch, but Joanna would not have known that," she said.

"She would not have known that somewhere on the horizon there was not a trial against her.

"So her life there, although it's a beautiful setting, would not have felt very comfortable at all.

"I hope people come along and get the vibe."

The writer, who lives in Herefordshire, is looking forward to paying a visit to the historical location.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to visit and talk about the book."

Ms O'Brien's talk will be taking place in the castle's Maiden Tower on May 3.

The hour-long talk will be starting at 5.30pm and the price is included in the cost of admission to the castle.

For further information about the event you can visit www.anne-obrienbooks.com or www.leeds-castle.com.

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
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A musical starring Linda Nolan features 'humour and honesty'

By Molly Kersey-Law
molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

A MUSICAL featuring a number of well-known stars will be making its way to Dartford next month. Menopause the Musical will be exploring the menopause and delving into its symptoms, which include hot flushes, hormones and mood swings.

It sees four women – who initially seem to have nothing in common – brought together at a department store sale and exchanging stories.

The show features Casualty star Rebecca Wheatley, EastEnders' actress Cheryl Fergison and singer Linda Nolan, who, along with her sisters, shot to fame in band The Nolans.

Speaking about the musical, Ms Fergison said: "This show simply had to be made.

"It tells you it's okay to talk about the subject and I'm glad because I'm going through the menopause myself at the moment.

"You see, until you do you have no idea it's such a big thing."

"There are songs about getting



MUSICAL: Well-known stars including Linda Nolan (top left) and Cheryl Fergison (top right) will appear

older, about your body shape changing," she added.

"And I love the fact this show reminds everyone that the menopause makes you emotional. I'm now tearing up over nothing at all, and I'm not an emotional person."

Ms Nolan previously spent three months touring with the musical show in Ireland.

She said: "The timing is great for this show.

"Women just seemed to be desperate for a great night out and enjoy 23 songs such as I Will Survive, but re-written with comedy lyrics.

"And it doesn't make light of the menopause, rather it shows you can tackle the likes of raging hot sweats with humour and honesty.

"I certainly don't mind anyone knowing I have to have fans in my dressing room, even when it's cold.

"But what's really great about

this show is that women come up to you and say 'thank you for making it okay to be over fifty.'"

Ms Wheatley said: "This show won't change your life or stop you taking your clothes off while watching telly, but it will guarantee you a great night out."

The show will be performed at the Orchard Theatre on May 11.

Visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk for more details.

Comedy show is opening

COMEDY group Three Half Pints will open their new children's show – Bad Guys – at the Gulbenkian in Canterbury. It takes place today (April 10) at 2pm. Call 01227 769075 to book.



Mark Watson in Margate

THE star of TV shows such as Mock the Week and Live at the Apollo, Mark Watson, will be appearing at the Theatre Royal Margate.

He will perform his show, I'm Not Here, on June 16 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £17 and can be booked from www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

Julian Clary in Folkestone

COMEDIAN Julian Clary will be bringing his show – The Joy of Mincing – to the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone on October 30.

The show starts at 8pm. For more, details visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.



Folk singer's in Dartford

FOLK singer-songwriter Steve Ashley will be performing at the Dartford Folk Club on May 31.

Mr Ashley has been performing since the 1960s and released his tenth solo album – This Little Game – last year.

For further details, you can visit www.dartfordfolkclub.org.uk.



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Jazz singer Curtis Stigers

JAZZ singer Curtis Stigers will be performing at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on July 20 at 7.30pm.

For more information or to book, visit www.assemblyhall-theatre.co.uk.



The lure of Ireland's call

MUSICAL Ireland's Call will be performed at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, later this month.

The production, which is inspired by true events, will take place on April 22 at 7.30pm.

For further information, visit www.churchill-theatre.co.uk.

Comedian talks money

SIMON Evans will be bringing his show, In The Money, to the Folkestone Quarterhouse on April 22.

The show will start at 8pm.

To book, call the box office on 01303 760750.



Show features puppetry

FEATURING puppetry and physical theatre, The Good Person of Szechwan will be performed at the Marlowe Studio, Canterbury, on April 29.

The show starts at 8pm and is suitable for those over the age of 14.

To book, call 01227 787787.

Suicide and murder in Puccini's tragic opera

By Molly Kersey-Law

molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

GIACOMO Puccini's dramatic opera Tosca will be performed in Folkestone next month.

The Ellen Kent production is presented by Opera and Ballet International.

Directed as a Victorian, gothic horror story, the show features murder and suicide.

It tells the story of Floria Tosca, who is in love with artist Mario Cavaradossi.

In order to save him from execution, she is forced to enter into a deal with the chief of police, Baron Scarpia.

However, she finds herself unable to go through with it.

The opera features Mr Puccini's well-known music and is based on a play written by dramatist Victorien Sardou.

It made its premiere in Rome in the 1900s.

Ms Kent paid a visit to Mr Puccini's home in Italy when she was preparing the new staging of the opera, which will be performed in Folkestone during its tour.

Speaking about his home, she



explained: "It was quite magical.

"I didn't think it would be quite so inspiring. It was almost eerie – exactly as you would imagine Puccini to have created, with beautiful memorabilia everywhere.

"There were his shoes and clothes and pipes and all the models of his operas and his actual scores with all his notes on them."

She added: "My productions are always rather beautiful and I suddenly realised that in my view, I have been doing what Puccini

would have liked and wanted. It felt like meeting somebody I knew."

The production includes a number of arias such as Recondita Armonia, Vissi d'Arte and E Lucevan le Stelle.

It will be performed at the Leas Cliff Hall on May 8 at 7.30pm.

Tickets to the show range from £17.50 to £32.50.

For further information, or to book, you can visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone or call the box office on 0844 871 3015.



OPERA: The show will be on stage at the Leas Cliff Hall



GOthic: The opera features murder and suicide

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The Hemsley sisters who pioneered spiralizing

Siblings Jasmine and Melissa Hemsley spoke about the release of their second book, Good + Simple

THE Hemsley sisters are as much chatterboxes as they are chefs, finishing each others' sentences and chipping in all over the place.

"I am the big sister and she's the bossy sister," Jasmine, 36, explains wryly, pointing at Melissa, 30.

The healthy-eating aficionados set up their company and lifestyle blog, Hemsley + Hemsley, together six years ago.

They were picked up by Vogue as columnists within weeks of starting out, their first book, *The Art Of Eating Well* – famed for its Bone Broth and Black Bean Brownie recipes – was an international hit, and now they're celebrating the release of their "second baby", *Good + Simple*.

"Good + Simple is pretty much what it says on the tin," said Melissa.

"Everything that went into it had to taste very good, do you good, and be really simple to make, and that is pretty much how we cook anyway – from Monday morning to Friday night."

"We are big fans of making life easy," agrees former model Jasmine, who explains that they're all about encouraging people to have a Sunday cook-off, where you set yourself up for the week by making meal batches.

"Every time you cook, make double and pop it in the freezer, and then you don't really think about takeaways," says Jasmine with a grin.

And the new book is full of healthy comfort food alternatives.



HEALTH: Melissa and Jasmine Hemsley 'love spiralizing'

"You'll find all your classic favourites reworked, like fish finger sandwiches. And the Full Monty, which is our full English breakfast," said Melissa.

"And then Celeriac Carbonara – it looks the business," finishes Jasmine.

The Celeriac Carbonara embodies what they're all about: vegetables, good fats and twists on the traditional – in this case, the pasta's replaced with ribbons of root veg.

"We love spiralizing," Melissa says proudly, which is something of an understatement – since they, in fact, pioneered the spiralizer.

They've even got Mary Berry using one: "I actually took a picture in Selfridges, and there's a pile of our spiralizers and then there's our book

and Mary Berry's book – I was like, 'Yay!' I always thought we would never have anything in common with Mary Berry, because I can't really bake," Melissa continues.

"We do bake 'our' way, but if someone asked me to bake Mary's way I wouldn't know how, because it's too scientific."

Neither of the sisters were surprised by the success of the gadget, despite people claiming it was "gimmicky" to begin with.

Their prediction for the next foodie obsession is cauliflower rice – there are three versions in *Good + Simple* – and they've already got their mum hooked.

For more details about the book visit www.hemsleyandhemsley.com.

Animal tales explored

SABA Douglas-Hamilton will be bringing her show - *A Life With Elephants* - to the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on April 20.

Ms Douglas-Hamilton, who has presented TV shows including *This Wild Life* and *Big Cat Diaries*, will be sharing stories about the animals she works with and her life in Kenya with her family.

Call 01892 530613 to book tickets.

Widdicombe on stage

COMEDIAN Josh Widdicombe will be bringing his show – *What Do I Do Now* – to Maidstone.

He is well-known for starring in Channel 4 show *The Last Leg* and he has also appeared on BBC2's *Mock the Week* and BBC1's *Live at the Apollo*.

He will perform at the Hazlitt Theatre on August 20 at 8pm.

Visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk to book

Story of a magic horse

FAMILY show *Into The Mist* will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse on May 1 at 3pm.

The show is presented by Travelling Light Theatre and suitable for children over seven.

Starting in the tower blocks on the outskirts of Dublin, a magical white horse appears into the lives of two children who are living with their widowed father.

To book, call 01303 760750.

Ballet due in Chatham

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The show is based on the fairytale by Charles Perrault.

It will be performed on October 15 at 7.30pm.

Tickets range from £21 to £23.

For further details, or to book, you can visit www.tickets.medway.gov.uk.

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NOMINATIONS are now being invited for the 2016 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 17 from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs, cafes and hoteliers.

All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies included will all be nominated by you, our Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers.

We want to know if you've enjoyed a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce

and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also available to complete online at kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners.

Entries close on August 7. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, starting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our fourth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise

the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online.

We are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business.

■ Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag

**Kent Life and
Kent on Sunday
Food & Drink
Awards 2016
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Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at kentfda@archant.co.uk

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Copies of the form and posters to
advertise your entry are available ___at
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www.kentnews.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is
Sunday, August 7, 2016

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<p>Newcomer of the Year Sponsored by Clive Emson Land & Property auctioneers</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Independent food or drink retailer of the Year Sponsored by Illuminate Skin Clinic</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Cafe of the Year</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>
<p>Food Producer of the Year Sponsored by Motorline Maserati</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Drinks Producer of the Year</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Farm Shop of the Year</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>
<p>Farmers' Market of the Year Sponsored by Perry's Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Pub of the Year Sponsored by Eastwell Manor</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>	<p>Restaurant of the Year Sponsored by The Foxhunter Park</p> <p>Who?</p> <p>Where?</p> <p>Why?</p>
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NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



This popular category is open to anyone in the food and drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months.

We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield.

Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR



This celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure.

The retailer who includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate.

Our winner will have a special 'must-have' range as well as making a real contribution to their local community.

Paying a visit to their shop will be a treat in itself.

CAFE OF THE YEAR

This category has changed from the previous Tea Shop of the Year to include places that also specialise in coffee! Tea and coffee shops are an integral part of the Kent food and

drink scene. Who makes the best tea and coffees, serves the nicest cakes and biscuits and the freshest scones? Are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled?

Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We look forward to hearing your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR



This category celebrates our local producers.

We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top quality local produce and service to their customers.

We are also keen to hear of any innovations.

If they're doing something new, we'd like to hear about it.

So if your local baker, grocer or farmer delights then please let us know.

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local drink producers.

Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy.

We want to know who you think makes the best drink, alcoholic or not, in the county, and what it is that makes it so special.

We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, introducing a fabulous new flavour, then we would like to all hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt farmers away from their local supermarkets.

Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable, is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard, does your local farm shop offer a box scheme?

Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from?

Nominate your favourite farm shop now.

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR



The key to a good farmers' market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports - for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Let us know so we can tell everyone the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR



A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We're looking for an inn that also offers delicious locally-sourced food, fantastic

customer service and real value for money. Pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community.

If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR



The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable

dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Is it locally sourced? Do they support local producers and are they recognised on the menu? Do they have local as well as international wines and champagnes and can the staff tell you more if you ask?

CHEF OF THE YEAR



Kent is blessed with some outstanding chefs working in a fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted him or herself to serving the best possible food. They'll demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. Above all, we are looking for passion - that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR



Most of our awards recognise customer

service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake.

Do you know a person, organisation or establishment that offers fabulous service that goes above and beyond what you expect?

We all know excellent service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, then let us know.

KENT FOOD AND DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK - as you would expect from the Garden of England.

As well as being blessed with some of the final local produce around, the county also has a variety of fantastic eateries located in local towns and villages.

This category will be celebrating the individual who has made a positive impact on the county's food or drink community.

Do you know someone who goes the extra mile in order to help promote Kent to a wider audience?

Someone who has shown that they are passionate about local produce throughout?

Now is the chance for you to nominate your very own Kent Food and Drink hero and give them the recognition that they deserve.

Get in contact with us and let us know who you think would be a worthy winner.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Abuse of our flag for US interests

IN recent weeks I have seen many flags featuring both the St George's cross and a puerile or non-sensical slogan pledging support for the former Manston Airport scruffily attached to fences across Thanet.

I am led to understand that this is a concerted effort by a small number of local residents who would like to see the airport transferred to an American investment fund.

I surely can't be alone in my discomfort at the defacing of our national flag.

And am I the only person who finds it rather ironic that the proud flag of our nation is being used to support the financial interests of an American investor?

What do our local politicians think on this matter I wonder?

Jamie Lewis,
via email

JP deserved to lose his position

MUCH as I agree with Phil Granger regarding withdrawal from the EU, I cannot agree with him that Mary McNulty was right to defend former magistrate, Richard Page [KoS, letters, last week].

She claimed it was an attack on free speech and he is claiming that Mr Page was removed because of his Christian beliefs (and Mr Page claims he has been discriminated against because of them).

All have completely missed the point that by allowing his Christian beliefs to get in the way of making an objective judgment, he demonstrated that he was unsuitable for the role.

Imagine if the heterosexual couple were both staunch atheists and each of the same-sex couple was a committed Christian; in such circumstances, having to decide which couple was the most suitable for adopting a child would have presented Mr Page with an impossible dilemma.

In the society in which we now live, there are different types of relationship in which children are being raised and the role Mr Page was required to perform demands that objective judgments have to be made, based on what is in the best interests of the child.

And by demonstrating that he was not capable of making them, he made his position untenable.

Christopher Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone

LETTER OF THE WEEK



On yer bike with the anti-car legislation

AFTER decades of mass anti-car legislation, though this reason was never mentioned outside of official documents, the government feels that it is confident enough to 'come out of the closet' by openly vilifying all those that drive [KoS, last week].

Now the government, with the help of our local councils, will try to replicate the communist cycling China of the Mao Tse-tung era and force us out of our cars with ever more draconian legislation.

So by the government's lack of action, it has now finished off the steel industry and is now trying to wreck the third largest producer of vehicles in Europe; Britain.

Do they think making a few bicycles will replace the billions of pounds this industry brings to the treasury?

But it is not just large companies that will suffer, how will this affect garden centres, DIY shops, builder merchants,

after school activities and so on?

How will it effect friends and relatives, who can be so easily visited by car?

Plumbers, decorators, electricians, builders and trades people in general?

Watching programmes on the telly of a district nurse wobbling about on a bike in some bygone era, might make good TV, but is hardly applicable to today's social needs.

In its draft Cycling Delivery Plan the government outlined its 'vision' which stated "walking and cycling becomes the natural choices for shorter journeys – or as part of a longer journey – regardless of age, gender, fitness or income".

So old people, or those suffering some disability – stay at home and do nothing?

Welcome to the new caring society!

Terry Hudson
Whitstable

Small rise but its why we must go

PROFESSOR Feargal Cochrane assures us that there has "only" been a 12.5 per cent increase in our population through immigration.

This means a 12.5 per cent increase in use of our roads, hospitals, housing and schools, which were stretched before this influx.

We are a small island, we only have so much space on which to build, and here in Kent there just isn't room to build bigger roads.

Here in Ashford green fields are being eaten up rapidly by new housing estates. Immigration may be improving the economy (a debatable point), but at the cost of severely worsening our quality of life (talk to anybody who uses Kent roads at rush hour).

Inevitably, we will begin to fight for the limited space that remains. Unless a stop is put to the continued influx, there will be increasing unrest in our society.

Dr Cochrane points out that two of the top nations sending people to this country are India and Pakistan. Why on earth is this

travesty of our border controls not being addressed? Surely these nations must recognise that a time has come to call a halt to open borders from any direction. I love Europe and the Europeans, but I will be voting out of the EU – I just don't see a viable alternative for the health of our nation.

Rachel Temple,
Ashford

We need to stay part of the union

I KNOW, from talking to people in Kent, that debate about the EU can easily disappoint those wanting balanced information and thoughtful arguments, so it makes sense for political parties and politicians to be clear about where they stand and why.

As a Green, I am wholeheartedly committed to Britain staying in Europe because I believe that neighbours working together are better able to maintain peace, ensure the wellbeing of citizens, and protect our environment.

But my vision of Europe is different: Green MEPs fighting for reforms to give people more say in decision-making, limit the power of corporations, and improve transparency. However, we recognise how far the EU has already come in this regard.

In 2009, the Lisbon Treaty increased the powers of the European Parliament, in relation to other EU institutions. As a result, directly elected MEPs, like me, can now block unacceptable international agreements such as TTIP (the controversial EU-US trade deal that threatens democracy, public health and the environment) and refuse budgetary sign-off. Previously secret meetings of the European Council are now webcast, and the European Commission recently agreed to publicly register meetings with lobbyists.

There is still further to go, but it would be wrong to think the EU cannot change or that we are powerless to make a difference.

My colleagues and I in the European Parliament prove – every day – that a better Europe is within our grasp and is something worth working for.

And we're not alone. Greens are part of Another Europe is Possible – a fast-growing progressive campaign for an EU that puts social justice, workers' rights and environmental protection first. To achieve these goals, we need to vote to remain.

Keith Taylor,
Green MEP, for South East

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Reculver Towers

by **Ernie Jordan,**
Margate

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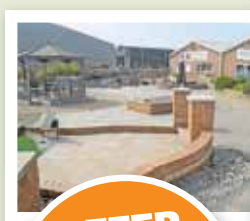
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STYLISH SUPERMINI: the Mazda2



HATCHBACK STYLE: the Mazda3



CLASSY SUV: the CX-5



SKYACTIV FLAG WAYER: the MX-5

Mazda flies with Skyactiv tech

BRAND UPDATE: Japanese sporting marque shows small is beautiful by developing a highly desirable line-up with driving appeal, style and quality

MAZDA is far from being Japan's biggest car brand – world No1 carmaker Toyota sells eight times more volume.

But the Hiroshima-based brand's size has allowed fancy footwork in the technical department to create – seemingly overnight – one of the industry's best overall line-ups.

Of course, the marque's brilliant Skyactiv technology suite – tuning driver enjoyment, boosting power to weight ratio, and slashing consumption and emissions – was not an overnight job.

A corporate decision to shun expensive R&D into alternative powertrains such as hybrid and electric also carries risk.

But rivals will surely be keen to recoup such investment via licensing agreements and Mazda seems to have read the motoring runes right, simply by concentrating on design and desirability, and maxing the potential of existing technologies.

It's certainly working in the UK where brand sales soared more than 20 per cent last year and are currently 25 per cent higher this year.

Mazda UK also signalled its confidence in the future by recently moving its Dartford HQ from a shared site to a standalone facility down the road that includes a showroom for the revitalised range, a new heritage collection, and state-of-the-art offices.

**BEST SPORTY
COMPACT
SUV?** the CX-3



After delivering some superb new high volume models – the mainstream trio of Mazda2 supermini, Mazda3 family hatch, and Mazda6 family saloon and estate, plus the excellent Mazda CX-3 and CX-5 sporting SUVs – the icing on the cake was added last year.

This was the marvellous Mk 4 MX-5 sports car (from £18,495) a flag waver for the Skyactiv

revolution because it has allowed Mazda to recreate the lightness and scale of the legendary Mk 1, retaining that front engine/rear-driven balance, while incorporating the best tech and safety demanded by both consumers and legislation.

Significantly though, Mazda no longer needs to rely on the MX-5 to deliver the headlines.

Volvo's plug-in flagship shines brightly

Swedish marque's XC90 SUV was already a star, but the new plug-in hybrid is a technological and desirable tour de force writes **Steve Loader...**

VOLVO'S 'T' designation used to suggest high performance turbo-charged petrol models – fans may recall the muscular 850 T5 of the 1990s.

But its latest deployment is on the plug-in hybrid T8 variant of the Swedish marque's superb second generation seven-seat XC90 SUV, which partners a 320bhp 2.0-litre turbo/supercharged petrol engine and 87bhp electric motor.

But while that is a lot of horsepower and the T8 is a technological tour de force, it is no turbo nutter's dream like the T5.

Indeed, even Volvo cannot come up with a better explanation than "it's called T8 Twin Engine because it uses our most powerful Drive-E petrol engine together with an electric motor".

I think the brand simply wanted something that sounded like 'V8' to attract reactionary or hard of hearing American buyers.

But I'm digressing from what is otherwise an excellent alternative XC90, showing ingenious thought by Volvo in making the electric motor power the rear wheels while the petrol unit looks after the busy end, leaving the now redundant trans-



mission tunnel from the conventional XC90 to carry the batteries for the electric powertrain.

As a result, the T8 has all the seven-up and 1,899-litre 'all seats down' load carrying capacity of its conventional sisters, while the 260-kilo penalty from the electric system – admittedly, equivalent to

more than three typical UK male passengers – is less of an issue because Volvo had already done a Herculean weight-saving job on the conventional donor model.

The clincher is the addition of a plug-in facility so that buyers can maximise battery power by ordering their life around regular charging at



home, the office or public facilities – anyone with a 25-mile or so commute could theoretically avoid using fuel in everyday use.

For the business user there are, of course, tax advantages too – Volvo claims the corporate tax relief is worth more than £11,000 at purchase time – going a long way to

Volvo XC90 T8 Momentum

Price:	from £60,455
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	the diesel XC90

offsetting the T8's starting price of £60,455 (before the £5,000 Government plug-in vehicle grant) versus the £50,685 of the conventional diesel – still my favourite.

The problem arises, of course, when you don't adhere to a strict charging regime and find that the frugal and cheaper diesel is maybe the better option.

The T8's interior has all the standard car's airy and classy appeal, including an excellent and intuitive touchscreen and commanding views out. Like its conventional sisters, this bulky car can be hustled along nicely too, with very little lean on the corners, and great refinement and smooth changes from the eight-speed auto gearbox.

So, here's a warning to those who, like me, dislike big SUVs and the types who drive them: you could find yourself wooed by the XC90 series.



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Personal contract hire offer on Corsa Limited Edition 1.4i 75PS ecoFLEX, 3-Door in Flame Red with Advanced Park Assist and Bi-Xenon headlights, on orders received before 30 June 2016, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £2,704, then 35 monthly rentals of £169. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 24,000 over 36 months charged at 6.64 pence per mile. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. **You will not own the car.** ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, B516 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. †First year insurance offer available on Corsa Limited Edition only, excluding Red and Black Editions. All drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Other insurance specific Ts&Cs apply. Drivers aged 18-20 will make a contribution of £99 to their premium and must agree to the fitting of a telematics box to the car; every 3 months, your contribution will be reviewed and if you drive well, we will return part of this to you. The policy may be cancelled for excessive speeding or consistently poor driving. Only available through ingenie. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Correct at time of going to press.



Bradstow School

Living and learning together within a culture of gentleness

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

HOME MANAGER – Residential Care

To organise and manage a group of staff working in a residential home. To arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that home on shift. To manage the administration of the home. To take a lead role in the home.

£27,924 - £30,178 pa – 41 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

DEPUTY HOME MANAGER

To assist the Home Manager in organising and managing a group of staff working in a residential home. To arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that home on shift. To manage the administration of the home. To take a lead role in the absence of the Home Manager

£23,698 - £26,293 pa – 41 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

HOUSEPARENT – EXTENDED PROVISION

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a student's Keyworker and some management responsibility.

£22,442 - £25,416 pa - 41 hours per week. All year round

HOUSEPARENT

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a student's Keyworker and some management responsibility.

£20,253 - £22,937 pa - 41 hours per week (including split shifts and weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,752 - £12,085 plus 10% pa – 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends – more hours available) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks* or 15 hours per week part-time pro-rata.

FEMALE WAKING NIGHT ATTENDANT – EXTENDED PROVISION

To be responsible for the supervision and care of the children and young people at night.

£23,459 - £26,144 (inc night allowance) - 36% hours per week, (nights inc weekends) All Year Round
Due to the nature of the personal care being provided, Section 7 (2) (a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies

FEMALE WAKING NIGHT ATTENDANT

To be responsible for the supervision and care of the children and young people at night.

£20,712 - £23,082 pa (including night allowance) - 36% hours per week, (nights including weekends) Term Time Only, plus 2 weeks*
Due to the nature of the personal care being provided, Section 7 (2) (a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies.

WEEKEND TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – CHILDCARE

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students in Childcare Teams during weekends. These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work.

£14,338 per annum – pro-rata 15 hours per week, (weekends) Term time only, plus 2 weeks*
Also available

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

We have some additional opportunities to provide additional cover within either the classrooms or residences on an ad-hoc hourly paid basis, up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends.
Please contact us for further details.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS (TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – EDUCATION)

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the school, for which previous experience is required:

£13,047 - £13,838 pa - 37½ hours per week, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*
(INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS)

The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the school, no previous experience is required, full training will be provided:

£12,075 - £12,420 pa - 37½ hours per week, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Mon-Fri - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is midnight Thursday 22nd April 2016.

Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Staff Nurses - Ward - Ashford & Margate

Full time

Hours: 37.5 per week

Closing date: 11/04/2016

Salary: £23,000 – £27,000

Dependent on qualifications and experience

Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Liz Justice, Ward Manager on 01843 234552.

Interviews to be held on 18/04/2016 & 19/04/2016.

For a job description and application form please visit

www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Mathew Thomas, HR Assistant Apprentice

Telephone: 01304 222690

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Previous applicants for this specific role need not apply.

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.
These positions are subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Notice of application for renewal of a Sex Establishment Licence pursuant to Schedule 3

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

TAKE NOTICE that on 6th April 2016 Emma Sexton applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the renewal of a sex establishment licence in respect of Players Gentlemen's Club, 57, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1SY

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Mondays to Sundays inclusive from 20.30 to 02.00 hours and on New Year's Eve – 20.30- 03.00

ACTIVITY: sexual entertainment venue

The application may be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Department, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ

ANY PERSON wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Senior Licensing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or by e-mail at licensing@maidstone.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 4th May 2016

Name: Emma Sexton

Organisation: Players,

Address: 57, High Street,
MAIDSTONE, KENT ME14 1SY

Date: 6th April 2016

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Laurence Pearson and Karen Batten trading as L+K Transport of High Winds, Gallants Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, ME15 0LF is applying for a licence to use The Yard adjacent to Hill Top, Gallants Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0LF as an operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 1 trailer.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Northeast hails 'exciting' arrivals

Kent signed Kagiso Rabada and Tom Latham over the winter

Cricket

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT Cricket captain Sam Northeast has hailed the addition of overseas players to the squad as they make their final preparations before the County Championship kicks off on Sunday.

South African bowler Kagiso Rabada and New Zealand batsman Tom Latham were both signed over the winter and Northeast expects them to make a big impact on Kent's challenge in all formats of the game this season.

He said: "When we chose the overseas players they had to fit into what our squad is – young and hungry for success.

"Rabada has shown over the winter period that he can bowl with speed and skill so he's going to be a brilliant addition for those six weeks, and Tom has been doing a great job as well.

"He'll add to that top order where we struggled at times last year and hopefully he can add a bit of support.

"It's two really exciting signings and it adds to a nice balance we've got already."

Northeast took over from Rob Key as captain at the end of last season and claims he is relishing the added responsibility.

"I'm looking forward to it hugely," he said. "I don't think much has changed from last year, I walked into it when Keysy stepped aside. "It's nice to have had a winter of getting the players in a good place and hopefully we see the benefits of that later in the season.

"It's been an easy changeover and



CAPTAIN: Sam Northeast addresses the media this week.

PICTURES: ADY KERRY

hopefully we can go one better than last year."

Rule changes mean only one team will be promoted from Division Two this year and Northeast is calling on his teammates to rise to the challenge.

"It's going to make it tougher and it will be interesting to see how other counties react to that," he said.

"Halfway through the year we'll probably have a better gauge of where we're at in terms of the changes."

Sutton charge hands Fleet and Stones boost

Football

MAIDSTONE United were this week handed a boost in their race for promotion – just hours after being leapfrogged in the National League South table.

The Stones were beaten 2-1 by Sutton United at the Gallagher Stadium on Tuesday night but it was announced the following day that their opponents could be docked points after fielding an ineligible player earlier in the season.

The news will also be welcomed by Kentish rivals and league leaders Ebbsfleet United, on whom Sutton were beginning to make up ground.

A spokesperson for Sutton United confirmed an appeal is being lodged against the charge which relates to



CHARGE: Sutton United could face a points deduction

the appearance of Jamie Slabber as a substitute in the U's 3-0 win at St Albans last month.

It is alleged that the relevant forms concerning his loan from Hemel Hempstead had not been lodged with all the relevant authorities prior to the game, however the club deny this and insist all submissions were completed on time.

Manager Paul Doswell said: "The players will remain positive right to the end of the season, and having seen similar situations involving Darlington and Kendal where no points deduction was applied I am confident of the outcome."

The National League rules on ineligible players state: "Any club found to have played an ineligible player in a match or matches shall have any points gained from that match or matches deducted from its record up to a maximum of 12 points and have levied upon it a fine."

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

Star Kickboxing wins the battle of Hastings

GRAVESEND'S all-conquering kickboxing club scooped yet more honours in Hastings at the weekend.

Star Kickboxing, based at the Apex Business Park off Queens Farm Road, took a number of fighters to the Hastings Centre and again stole the limelight.

Led by instructor Leigh Haworth, first up was nine-year-old George 'The Savage' Savage weighing in at 30.50kgs.

He was to fight a three round battle against Henry Tibble from SFX Gym, and although his opponent was an aggressive fighter, George controlled him well leading to a unanimous victory.

The headline act, though, was Hayley Ward against the very experienced Dani Hodges of Platinum Gym for the British flyweight ICO Title.

Ward's accuracy was to win over her opponents' aggressive style by picking her shots carefully and using her evasive footwork.

Hayley won all five rounds unanimously placing yet another belt around her waist.



WARD: By Clipz Photography



RAVENS: Bromley are mid-table in the National League

Smith gets two-year deal as Bromley boss

NATIONAL League Bromley have confirmed Neil Smith as first team manager – handing him a two-year deal after a period as caretaker boss.

He replaces long-time boss Mark Goldberg who left in February, with Smith's contract coming into force with immediate effect as the club currently sit comfortably mid-table.

Chairman Jerry Dolce said: "We have taken time to assess our

position and the board have unanimously concluded that Neil and his team have the capability to match the ambitions of the club."

Smith added: "I'm delighted to have been given this opportunity and would like to thank the board for their backing. I'd also like to thank the fans for their continued support which home and away has been amazing all season."

Greene beats White in qualifier

KENT-BORN snooker player Gerard Greene has advanced to the next round of the World Championship qualifiers after a surprise win over Jimmy White on Thursday.

White missed out on a first World Championship appearance since 2006 after losing in a 10-9 defeat.

Greene, who grew up in Chatham, will be keen to make the finals of the competition alongside fellow Kentish

player Barry Hawkins, whose record at the Crucible in recent years has been impressive.

He also reached the final of the Masters for the first time earlier this year, having not progressed past the first round previously, but was comprehensively beaten by Ronnie O'Sullivan at Alexandra Palace.

The tournament kicks off in Sheffield next Saturday.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
[Twitter @KentSport](https://twitter.com/KentSport) [Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3](https://www.facebook.com/kentsport.3)

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